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Brooks River Area Development Concept Plan

Alternatives Workbook Summer 1991



Katmai National Park and Preserve
Alaska






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**KATMAI NATIONAL PARK AND PRESERVE
ALASKA**

**BROOKS RIVER AREA
DEVELOPMENT CONCEPT PLAN**

**ALTERNATIVES WORKBOOK
SUMMER 1991**



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CONTENTS

INTRODUCTION	1
PURPOSE OF THIS WORKBOOK	1
PLANNING CONCERNS	1
DIRECTION FROM THE GENERAL MANAGEMENT PLAN	2
RESOURCE PRESERVATION AND MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES	3
Natural Resources	3
Cultural Resources	3
EXISTING CONDITIONS	7
NATURAL RESOURCES	7
Relevant Findings of the Brown Bear Behavior and Human Activity Study	7
CULTURAL RESOURCES	9
VISITOR USE, EXPERIENCE, AND INTERPRETATION	10
ADMINISTRATION AND GENERAL DEVELOPMENT	10
ALTERNATIVE 1	17
ALTERNATIVE 2	27
ALTERNATIVE 3	37
ALTERNATIVE 4	49
BROOKS RIVER SPORTFISHING OPTIONS COMPATIBILITY WITH ALTERNATIVES ..	59
RESPONSE SHEET	61

MAPS

Katmai National Park and Preserve	5
Existing Conditions, Brooks River Area	15
Alternative 1, Brooks River Area	19
Alternative 1, Vicinity	23
Rest Stop Alternatives	25
Alternative 2, Brooks River Area	29
Alternative 2, Vicinity	33
Alternative 3, Brooks River Area	39
Alternative 3, Iliuk Moraine	41
Alternative 3, Vicinity	47
Alternative 4, Brooks River Area	51
Alternative 4, Vicinity	55

INTRODUCTION

PURPOSE OF THIS WORKBOOK

The purpose of this workbook is to present the conceptual Brooks River area draft alternatives to the public for review and comment before proceeding with a detailed plan and environmental assessment which will describe impacts and costs. The public is invited to submit comments to the National Park Service (NPS) using the self-addressed response sheet at the end of this document.

PLANNING CONCERNS

The 1986 General Management Plan (GMP) for Katmai National Park and Preserve (NP&P) committed the National Park Service to carrying out a Development Concept Plan (DCP) for the Brooks River area. A major concern for this plan is to decide to what extent and where the expected increases in visitor demand can be accommodated without overwhelming the natural and cultural resources by overuse or allowing the visitor experience to deteriorate because of overcrowding. In 1980, Katmai NP&P registered approximately 11,000 visits. By 1990, visitation had increased to approximately 43,000. Visitation to Katmai NP&P is growing at an average of 15% per year, making it one of the fastest growing park visitations in Alaska. Brooks Camp, particularly during July, may have more than 200 people per day using a relatively restricted area.

The DCP needs to address several concerns regarding brown bears including: human intrusion into prime bear habitat, potentially dangerous interactions between humans and bears, and disruption of normal bear feeding and behavior patterns. In regard to increasing interactions between growing numbers of visitors and bears, the issue is how to reduce this potentially hazardous situation and impacts on bears while still providing for visitor activities in the Brooks River area. Currently, park rangers are obliged to drive bears from a scattered developed area. This includes the occasional use of shotguns with cracker shell loads to condition the bears. A no bear zone at Brooks Camp is specifically defined as 50 yards from buildings except along the lakeshore. Enforcement is sporadic, resulting in an inconsistent message both to the bears and visitors. "It is clear to NPS managers that the increasing number of people and the seasonal concentrations of bears presents a serious conflict. It is also clear that if visitor use of Brooks Camp continues to increase, the potential for a tragic incident and for irreparable impact on the bear population also increases." (GMP p.32).

Another concern identified by the GMP is the protection of cultural resources. The Brooks River archeological district contains 22 sites with 750 house depressions, making it one of the greatest known concentrations of prehistoric houses in Alaska. The Brooks River Archeological District is on the National Register of Historic Places and has been nominated as a National Historical Landmark.

In a wider perspective the Brooks Camp experience is inextricably tied to the road and trail system linking the lower part of the Valley of Ten Thousand Smokes with the Brooks River developed area. Park visitors are transported via concession operated bus and vans 23 miles to the valley and can hike approximately one mile down a narrow foot trail to reach the ash filled floor and Ukak River cascades. Numerous visitors have expressed dissatisfaction with the cost,

lack of park interpretation, and difficulty for less physically capable persons to access the ash flow and waterfalls.

DIRECTION FROM THE GENERAL MANAGEMENT PLAN

The 1986 General Management Plan for Katmai NP&P addressed the need for a Development Concept Plan for the Brooks River area. A basic component of the Brooks River Area DCP is the concern for appropriate protection and management of the brown bear population. The General Management Plan gave certain directives and guidelines:

Because Brooks Camp is situated in prime brown bear habitat, long-range plans may require either its relocation or additional restrictions on sportfishing along Brooks River, or both actions may be necessary. Ongoing studies documenting bear/human interactions in the Brooks Camp area will help guide future decisions [p. iii].

A development concept plan will be prepared to address the need for, location, and size of an overflow camping area, new visitor center, and an elevated boardwalk to and across Brooks River [p. iii].

The [General Management] plan has deferred the proposal to relocate Brooks Camp facilities until current bear/human interaction studies are complete [p. v].

To minimize conflicts between bears and visitors in the Brooks Camp area, all or parts of existing facilities may be relocated and/or additional Brooks River fishing regulations may be necessary [p. v].

Katmai National Park is the home of the largest protected population of brown bears in North America. Bear feeding habits are not fully understood, but it is clear that human activities disrupt bear feeding and other activities. Sometimes as many as 15 brown bears are along the 1-mile-long Brooks River, and increasing densities of people in this same area result in encounters that endanger the safety of the people. Any removal of bears to reduce this potential threat would jeopardize the natural condition of the bear population. The issue is how to reduce human interference with brown bears, particularly at Brooks Camp where most human activities occur [p. 9].

The National Park Service is committed to taking whatever actions are necessary to limit conflicts between bears and visitors in the Brooks Camp area to an acceptable level. This may include a phased relocation of all or part of the existing facilities. It may also include placing additional restrictions on sportfishing along the Brooks River, including reducing limits or temporarily closing specific areas to human use [p. 32].

The National Park Service is mandated by ANILCA and other laws and presidential proclamations to protect the habitat for, and populations of, fish and wildlife within the park and preserve. The National Park Service will strive to maintain the natural abundance, behavior, diversity, and ecological integrity of native animals as part of their ecosystems. NPS management of fish and wildlife will generally consist of baseline research and management of the human uses and activities that affect such populations and their habitat, rather than the direct management of resources [p.44-45].

The park will not relocate problem bears [p. 47].

The objectives of Katmai's bear management plan are to retain a naturally regulated population of brown bears in the park and to preclude the food-reinforced attraction of bears to people and thereby minimize confrontations between bears and people. The plan provides for...minimizing human impacts on bear behavior and patterns of habitat use [p.47-48].

Any proposed developments will be designed to avoid impacts to the significant known archeological resources of the area. Ground-disturbing activities will be preceded by archeological surveys and testing [p. 56].

The above quotes clarify the NPS concerns regarding bear management, archeological resources, and facility development in the Brooks River area.

RESOURCE PRESERVATION AND MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES

Natural Resources

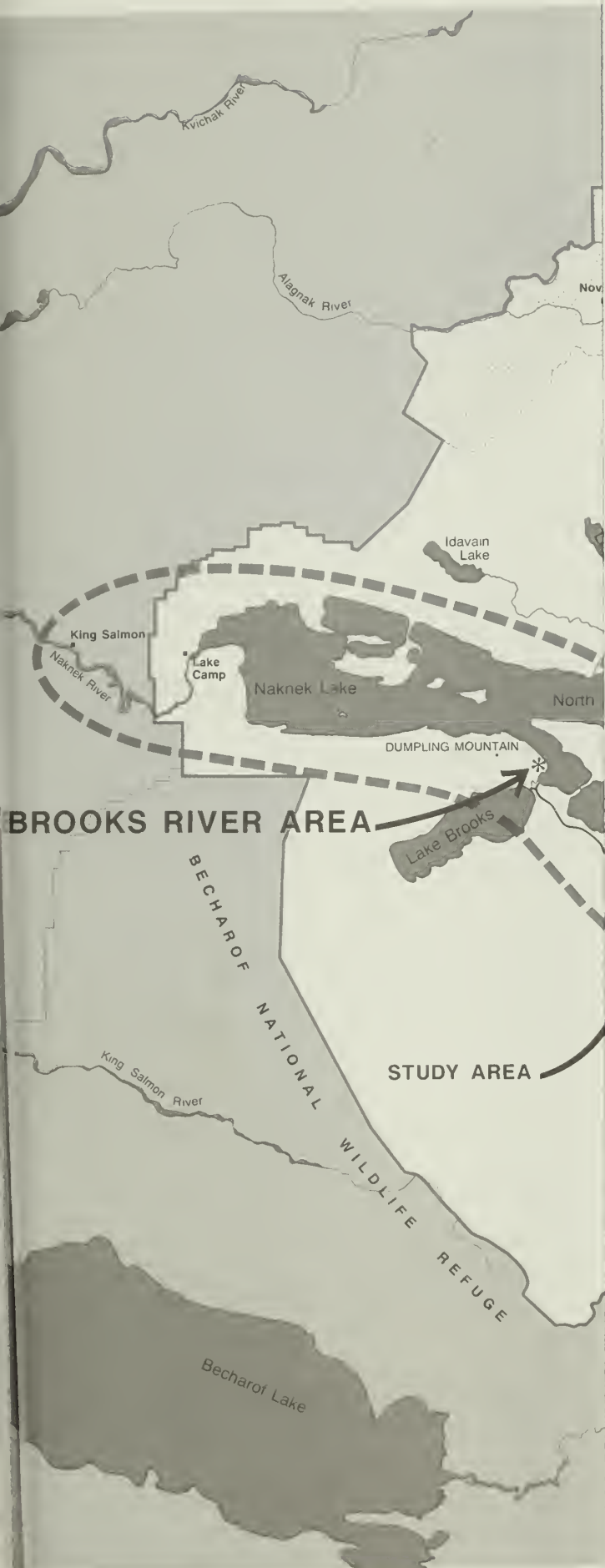
The objective for the preservation and management of natural resources in this planning effort is to provide a range of alternatives that realistically comply with the direction given in the approved General Management Plan for the protection of the wildlife and fisheries.

Cultural Resources

The cultural resources in the Brooks River Archeological District are nationally significant. Under the terms of Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act, the National Park Service is obligated to take the presence of these resources into consideration when any action is undertaken that could damage these resources. Whenever it is feasible, the known cultural resources will be avoided. If it is not possible to avoid known resources, then the National Park Service will develop plans to mitigate any adverse effects on those resources in consultation with the State Historic Preservation Officer and the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation.

In areas that have not been previously surveyed for cultural resources, such surveys will be conducted and any newly discovered archeological or historic resources will be evaluated for their significance before any proposed action is undertaken.

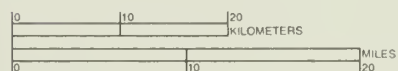
For the purposes of this plan, the old Log Cabin, on the shore of Brooks Lake, is treated as if it were a historic structure, pending further evaluation.



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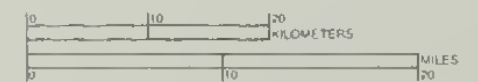




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EXISTING CONDITIONS

NATURAL RESOURCES

Thirty-three air miles east-southeast of King Salmon lies Brooks Camp. The camp is situated on a peninsula at the mouth of Brooks River, hence its name. The area consists of white spruce forest south of the river and a mosaic of deciduous woods and open grassy areas north of the river on the slopes of Dumpling Mountain. Marshy areas are common along the floodplain in the oxbows and at the river mouth. Brooks River flows from Lake Brooks (commonly called Brooks Lake) on a meandering course eastward for about one and one-half miles before it empties into Naknek Lake, the largest freshwater lake in the national park system.

About midway down Brooks River is Brooks Falls. The six foot high falls are a critical component of the ecological web along Brooks River. By creating a partial barrier to salmon migration the falls provide a position from which brown bear are able to catch salmon as the fish jump the falls or school in the pools below. Bears congregate at the falls and along the river below the falls during the sockeye salmon run that occurs in July. In September the bears return to Brooks River to eat the spawned-out salmon from the July run. The number of bear viewers is currently unregulated which can lead to human/bear encounters that are deleterious to the maintenance of a wild, free roaming bear population in the area, and potentially injurious to park visitors.

The sockeye salmon run and resident rainbow trout population provide excellent sportfishing opportunities. This combination of bear viewing and photographic opportunities and salmon and trout fishing is what attracts people to Brooks River. Sportfishing in the area is regulated by the Alaska Department of Fish and Game and the National Park Service. No threatened or endangered species of plants or animals are known to occur in the Brooks River area. Bald eagles frequent the vicinity of Brooks River to feed on fish carrion created by the bears and to catch fish in the lakes and river. None are known to nest in the immediate area.

Visitation to the Valley of Ten Thousand Smokes, under existing conditions, is inextricably tied to the Brooks River area because of the location of the lodge and the transportation system. Thus the geologic and scenic resources of the Valley of Ten Thousand Smokes must be considered as natural resources that can affect, and are affected by, the existing conditions at Brooks River.

Relevant Findings of the Brown Bear Behavior and Human Activity Study

The National Park Service commissioned a formal scientific study of the interaction of bears and people at Brooks River. The need for this study was referenced in the General Management Plan. Its findings and recommendations will be major factors in the proposals and conclusions drawn in this DCP. The final report, **BROWN BEAR BEHAVIOR AND HUMAN ACTIVITY AT SALMON STREAMS IN KATMAI NATIONAL PARK, ALASKA** was submitted to the National park Service in June 1990.

The following quotes are particularly relevant to understanding the existing conditions of brown bear utilization of the Brooks River area.

Brooks River is unique in the park....Although the ecological importance of this small area has not been determined quantitatively, the energetic contribution of these salmon must certainly be fundamental to a significant proportion of the park's bears. Planning and management for growth in visitation at Brooks River should recognize the implications of loss of access to this resource [p. 104].

The stability of Katmai National Park's brown bear population is tied to the food sources upon which the bears depend, particularly to the salmon concentrations such as Brooks River [p. 14].

Current levels of human use are effectively excluding some classes of bears (non-habituated families, non-habituated singles; about 45 percent of all bears) from lower river zones and limiting fishing time within these zones [p. 104].

In July females with cubs of the year were observed approaching the river, then turning back when large numbers of people were encountered. Although the effects of such situations on survival and population productivity were not determined in this study, special management efforts to protect this cohort of bears are indicated by our observations. Nutritional and security needs of these families derive from the following considerations:

- 1) Females with two or three nursing cubs have high demand for nutritious salmon, and low body reserves of energy, especially early in the season.
- 2) Protection of cubs limits the range of river locations that such females can use because of potentially infanticidal males, and swift water. Also, some family groups tend to avoid people, which is especially difficult at the peak sockeye fishing season in July.
- 3) The first females with tiny cubs to approach the river near camp attract throngs of people. The numbers of people, combined with their resistance to abandoning fishing temporarily of aggressiveness in obtaining photographic opportunities can overwhelm the capability of rangers to provide these bears access to the river.
- 4) The task of simultaneously leaving cubs on a bank in order to rush into the river to catch fish, while remaining close and vigilant enough, appeared stressful to some females. Finding people on all sides caused some females to abandon their attempts to fish. [p. 105]

This research has demonstrated the importance of Brooks River below the falls as feeding habitat for bear families....Angling is the most intrusive human activity in this prime habitat because it requires that the person be in the river in direct competition for space with foraging bears. Resolution of this conflict through bear management is difficult without a policy determination about the relative priority of bears versus [sport]fishing [p. 108].

Fish capture [by bears] in the lower river appeared directly affected by human activity, either through interruption of feeding, or more subtly, by reduction of the amount of alert fishing by scanning bears [p. 36].

The relative impact on bears of structures and activities in forested areas at a distance from the river is infinitely smaller than similar development near the river, which disturbs a myriad of ecological processes based on salmon consumption [p. 104].

Noise produced by aircraft, boats, and construction, constitutes intrusive stimuli which may be differentially experienced by the various age-sex classes of bears frequenting the river. Displacement of family groups in particular could have population-level effects [p. 14].

Late season visitation at Brooks River risks aggressive confrontations with bears unaccustomed to meeting people; disruption of habitat use by families of bears is also likely. If the visitor season were to be extended, special precautions and restrictions would be necessary since the pattern of human use would become less predictable to the bears. Unexpected encounters are associated with aggressive interactions and injuries from bears worldwide [p. 106].

The Brooks River area qualifies as key habitat for brown bears not only because of the abundance of salmon in Brooks River, but also the exceptional availability of these fish at the Falls in July and the post-spawning salmon numbers in September and October....Brooks Camp could hardly have been located in a worse place for conflict with bear movements and access to the river's fish. Increased visitation has only exacerbated this conflict. A longer-term plan for Brooks Camp is being developed by the National Park Service, including an option to relocate the camp. From the perspective of reducing the multiple sources of disturbances to bears, a change in camp location is the one option that could resolve a host of management problems [p. 107].

CULTURAL RESOURCES

Extensive archeological remains indicate that people have lived in the Brooks River area for over 4000 years. These remains include at least 22 sites containing over 750 pit house depressions and other types of cultural resources, which constitute the Brooks River Archeological District. This property has been determined to be nationally significant for its potential to yield scientific information regarding the prehistoric human occupation of Alaska.

The Brooks Camp development has been built on top of four archeological sites, some of which contain the oldest human remains yet discovered in the Naknek Lake region. The foot trail to the bear viewing platform runs the length of one archeological site, containing evidence of the earliest habitation of the falls area by humans. The vehicle parking area at the end of the road to the Valley of Ten Thousand Smokes is adjacent to an unstudied, but apparently large archeological site. The NPS facilities on Brooks Lake are next to an apparently extensive site dating to at least 2000 years ago.

The Brooks River area also contains one structure constructed in 1940 by the National Marine Fisheries Service (referred to as the old Log Cabin in this workbook). It once served as the field base for fish research throughout the Bristol Bay region. It has not been evaluated for its historic or architectural significance. The Log Cabin is old enough to qualify for evaluation of its significance to the National Register of Historic Places by virtue of its age. The park has no List of Classified Structures.

VISITOR USE, EXPERIENCE, AND INTERPRETATION

Before arriving at Brooks Camp, visitors presently have little opportunity to orient themselves to the resource or plan their trip. The present Park Headquarters and the multi-agency orientation kiosk in King Salmon provide a limited NPS presence. The National Park Service is very successful in contacting visitors as they arrive at Brooks Camp. Approximately 97 percent of all Brooks Camp visitors receive the *Bear Safety Message* during their orientation at the visitor contact station.

The interpretive program at Brooks Camp is minimal. Roving rangers are in a protection mode, protecting people from bears and bears from people, leaving them with little time for formal interpretation. The bear viewing platform near the falls is the highlight of most visits. Visitor demand and crowding have prohibited guided interpretive tours to the platform; however a roving ranger is assigned during peak periods. Only one guided tour is given a day to other areas of interest.

The Visitor Center (VC) is temporary (a converted construction crew barracks) and the interpretive media presentations are dated and do not address Brooks Camp specifically. The VC is not successful in presenting an overview of the Brooks Camp story (the interrelationships of the volcanic story as related to bears, fish, and people over time) and does not serve as an anchor for the interpretive program. The cultural story is an obscure element of the interpretive program. The reconstructed Eskimo Pit House is an effective means of interpretation; however, the non-central location of both the VC and the pit house limit the number of visitors. Less than 10 percent of visitors go to the VC or pit house. The recent conversion of the Ranger Station to the function of primary contact station for visitors arriving at Brooks Camp has greatly improved communications and information exchange between rangers and visitors. Concession operated tours take visitors to the Valley of Ten Thousand Smokes; however interpretation on the bus, at the Three Forks Overlook, and along the valley trail is minimal. The visitor experience at Brooks Camp is focused on the activities of bear viewing, fishing and touring the valley with limited opportunity for understanding the themes of each area and their interrelationships. The current interpretive program at Brooks Camp is one of missed opportunity.

ADMINISTRATION AND GENERAL DEVELOPMENT

Administration, management, and maintenance of the Brooks River area and the adjoining road to the Valley of Ten Thousand Smokes (Valley Road) constitutes the park's major investment in terms of money, personnel, and resources management. It has been estimated that 80+ percent of the total park budget of \$1,049,000 is used to directly and indirectly support the Brooks River area operation. Even with this level of funding, normal maintenance, visitor services, and resource protection is difficult to fully achieve. Preparation for the seasonal operation of Brooks Camp begins in May with the process of thawing frozen water and sewer lines, repairing utilities, opening buildings, grading the Valley Road, clearing trails, replacing the built-up gravel trail along the lower river, placing the floating bridge in the river, etc. This activity requires that both wheeled and tracked equipment be driven across the lower river to access the camp area. This may compact the gravel in the salmon spawning beds. During this time it is not feasible to use boats for transportation, so all access is via floatplane.

By the last week of May, a full staff of NPS and concession employees is in place. The park staff currently summering in the Brooks River area consists of a Park Ranger Supervisor, Interpretive

Specialist, Wildlife Biologist, nine seasonal ranger/interpreters, five volunteers, and 10 seasonal maintenance workers. The concession operation normally consists of an on-site Manager and eighteen employees. Other park staff periodically involved in the Brooks River area operation include the Superintendent, Chief Ranger, and Concessions Specialist. Available housing limits the number of employees summering in the Brooks River area.

The summer visitor season for Brooks Lodge begins June 1 and extends through September 10. The 60 person concession guest facilities are usually full throughout the season. Campground use is generally light to moderate through late June, but demand usually exceeds the 60 person limit throughout the month of July. Campground use gradually declines in August and is light during September.

Day visitation has constituted the greatest increase in human use of the Brooks River area. This began in the late 1970's and early 1980's when the area was opened to Commercial Use License operations. Numerous private lodges from as far away as Lake Clark NP&P flew increasing numbers of guests to Brooks River to sport fish and watch bears. The development of a large hotel in King Salmon and recent involvement of major tour companies led to increasing numbers of persons being flown to the Brooks River area to view bears and take the bus trip to the Valley of Ten Thousand Smokes. Over the past few years there has been an increasing number of foreign visitors. A small, but growing number of backcountry canoeists and backpackers begin and end their trips at Brooks Camp.

Although park rangers orient arriving visitors to bear safety concerns, ranger patrols are often focused on preventing close encounters between fishermen and bears. The scatter of fishermen and photographers up and down Brooks River often results in rangers alerting fishermen and photographers to warn of an approaching bear and to direct them to move out of the area. In many cases, close encounters between bears and fishermen or photographers are only discovered through secondhand reports. During July, rangers are frequently called upon to lend assistance during their off time. In August, when visitation declines slightly and bear numbers drop dramatically, conflicts decrease. Ranger efforts seek to prevent excessive habituation and food-conditioning of bears, and to insure that bears are allowed necessary access to the river in competition with human visitors.

Bears return to Brooks River in greater numbers during September, therefore, the National Park Service requires the concession operation to close on September 10. An additional 10 days are required to complete winterizing the facilities. A battery powered electric fence is erected around the concessioner's lodge and office/trading post buildings to discourage bear damage. Two park staff remain in the camp to study bear behavior and meet visitors through the first week of October.

The current facilities and visitor access in and around the Brooks River/Valley of Ten Thousand Smokes area directly influence both the safety and enjoyment of park visitors. The following describes existing development conditions:

Campground: The existing size, design, and location are inadequate to meet visitor needs. Occupancy is now limited to 60 campers and 7 day camping limit. Demand often exceeds 100 during peak season. The campground is also subject to bear traffic and requires campers to walk between the developed area and camping area along a heavily used bear travel route. Campers walking to and from the campground frequently conflict with bear movements along Naknek Lake beach. The campground is in a poor location. Drainage

around the tent sites is inadequate and many trees in the campground are in various stages of decay. The tall grass around the campground creates a visibility problem between humans and bears using the area.

Naknek Lake Beach: This is a common route for bear travel, feeding and resting. Floatplanes debark and embark passengers at the beach and camp visitors use it for recreational purposes. Visitor use frequently bring bears and people into close contact.

Concession and NPS Seasonal Housing Area: The housing area is located in critical bear habitat and atop archeological sites. Bears pass through the area, particularly at night. Water lines to housing and visitor facilities freeze each winter requiring on-going maintenance which threatens archeological resources.

Ranger Station: This converted one-room log cabin serves as the main contact point for visitors arriving at Brooks Camp. The *Bear Safety Message* and other orientation materials are presented here.

Visitor Center: This facility is a converted temporary bunkhouse. The structure is deteriorating and is not handicap accessible. Normal maintenance threatens archeological resources.

Visitor and Vehicle Trails: Approximately 0.5 miles of heavily used trails are within Brooks Camp. These trails are often bordered by dense underbrush screening bears from visitors. The trails are used by a small garden tractor and trailer to haul luggage and supplies. Foot and vehicle traffic impact vegetation. Numerous social trails result in increasing loss of vegetation.

Brooks Lodge: This building is crowded at peak use times, and is inadequate to meet demands during this period. Visitors congregate around the lodge during arrival/departures, prior to meeting the valley tour bus, at meal times and during rainy weather. Bears frequently pass along the nearby beach and within dense underbrush in close proximity to visitors. The structure is located on top of significant archeological sites. The general area around this building has experienced loss of vegetation.

Guest Cabins: There are eight small one-room cabins designed to house four guests in bunk beds and a Skytel 10-room building with small rooms accommodating four guests each. Rental costs per person range from \$65.00 to \$235.00 per night. Bears frequently pass close to the cabins. All structures sit atop significant archeological sites.

Bridge Trail: To get to the floating bridge which crosses the river, visitors must walk a trail that parallels the north bank of the lower Brooks River. The trail bisects the river bank and a low marsh with tall concealing grass. Bears regularly use this area for feeding, resting, and travel. Visitors travel through a heavy bear use area. Bear presence around the bridge can stop visitor traffic for up to two hours affecting visitor experience and flight schedules. The trail has been flooded during late summer. Each spring the trail surface must be built up with gravel mined from nearby borrow pits.

Floating Bridge: All visitor traffic must cross a noisy pontoon foot bridge spanning the Brooks River. The bridge has become a bottleneck of visitor and bear traffic. It blocks normal bear passage along the river forcing the animals to climb the bank and walk around

it. This brings the bears into the heavily used visitor route. The structure forms a shadow barrier across the river temporarily blocking the passage of migrating salmon. This results in a concentration of anglers at the bridge. Bears searching for salmon carcasses and remains that have floated down to the river mouth come in conflict with the anglers.

Brooks Falls Trail: This 0.6 mile route connects the park road with the bear viewing platform at Brooks Falls. Heavy visitor foot traffic has caused extensive loss of vegetation and widening of the trail. Tree roots are being exposed by this erosion. The exposed ash surface becomes slick during wet weather and has resulted in visitors slipping and falling. Numerous bear trails cross this route. Tall grass and other brush limit visibility along the trail. Visitors may encounter bears at close range along this route.

Bear Viewing Platform: This platform comfortably accommodates about 25 people. Use frequently exceeds 40. When the platform is full, people arriving are required to wait on the entrance stairs or remain on the trail in the bear use area.

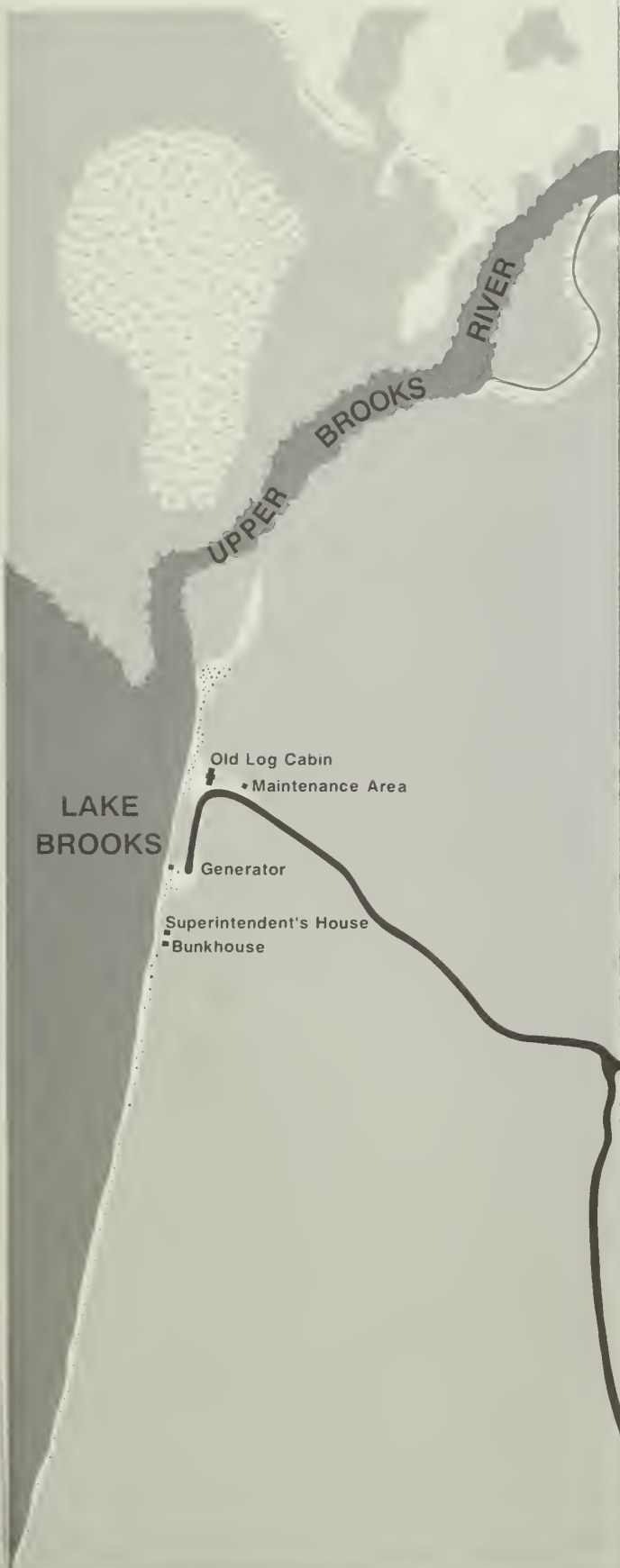
Lower Brooks River: This area is heavily used by fishermen, photographers, and bears. Frequent close contact occurs, occasionally resulting in bears taking fish from unsuspecting anglers. Photographers sometimes ignore the required distance they are to keep from bears and move in to get a close-up photograph. The presence of people and their activities force unhabituated bears to abandon their normal feeding and use patterns.

South Bank of Lower Brooks River: This is a site of frequent visitor congestion plus a common bear use area. Erosion of the bank has been accelerated by increased foot traffic along the very edge of the bank. Trampling of marsh vegetation occurs every summer

Vehicle Parking Area: This area provides space to park the government vehicles and concessions tour bus. It is unsecured and visible to visitors walking the park road. Underground storage tanks for vehicle fuel are adjacent to an archeological site.

Brooks Lake Development: This area consists of the Superintendent's house, bunkhouse, generator and fuel storage, boat docking facilities, amphibious plane turnaround area, the old Log Cabin, and maintenance area. The area is entirely an NPS presence, except that floatplanes land on Brooks Lake primarily when wind conditions are not favorable for landing on Naknek Lake.

Three Forks Overlook: The current facility consists of a small, unstaffed interpretative cabin and a one mile trail that descends to the valley floor. The cabin sits atop a high knoll which has a commanding view, but is often shrouded in fog or is exposed to strong winds. The trail is relatively steep and is a difficult route for some elderly and physically limited persons. There is no NPS interpretive presence. People walking into the valley along the trail are dependent on bus drivers with limited interpretive training for information on the geologic history of the local features.



EXISTING CONDITONS BROOKS RIVER AREA

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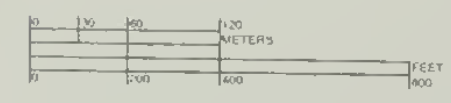
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EXISTING CONDITONS BROOKS RIVER AREA

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ALTERNATIVE 1

ALTERNATIVE 1

MAJOR OBJECTIVES

1. Maintain most Brooks River area developments at their present locations.
2. Limit visitation to the 1984-1985 levels.
3. Provide a focal point for visitor arrival/orientation (new visitor center).
4. Relieve congestion at the bear viewing platform and floating bridge bottleneck.
5. Focus interpretation on the primary elements of the Brooks River story.

VISITOR EXPERIENCE AND INTERPRETATION

King Salmon

An information center (staffed) would be located adjacent to the airport in King Salmon. A short audiovisual presentation and exhibit area would highlight the significance of the resources and the various types of opportunities available in the region. The facility would also serve as a trip planning center where visitors could ask questions, obtain information and maps and make final decisions on supplies and logistic arrangements.

NPS administration would remain in the existing leased building in the town of King Salmon. NPS employee quarters and possibly a research and artifact storage facility and maintenance facility would be constructed in King Salmon.

Brooks River

Under this alternative, the traditional Brooks Camp experience (small lodge setting within the prime resource) would be maintained with only those additional improvements deemed necessary to create a more acceptable visitor experience. Actions within this alternative will not materially affect use in the immediate Brooks Camp area. The overnight experience, small lodge setting, and the feeling that you are eye to eye with the bears would continue. The lodge would continue to be the focus of visitor activity. A new visitor center and an improved interpretive program would give visitors a better opportunity to leave the Brooks River area with an understanding and appreciation of the area's significance.

In 1984 and 1985 an average of 70 people per day visited Brooks Camp. It was during these years that the National Park Service recognized that Brooks River was beginning to be over-utilized in some respects. Since visitation to Brooks Camp has increased to a current average (1989 and 1990) of 101 people per day, this alternative proposes that restrictions on arrivals from all sources be implemented to achieve a reduction in use level back to the 1984-85 per day figure of 70 people. The distribution of visitors during the day would remain the same; two thirds of the people would be fishing, bear viewing, or relaxing in camp for various periods, while the other third were on the all day Valley of Ten Thousand Smokes tour. It must be remembered that, in

RDWALK.



ENLARGE EXISTING BEA
PLATFORM & ADD APPR

UPPER BROOKS
RIVER

ON GROUND T
• IMPROVE A
• HARDEN S
• VEGETATIO

OLD LOG CABIN

UPGRADE MAINTENANCE
AREA

LAKE
BROOKS

FLOAT PLANE ACCESS
• PROVIDE TIE DOWNS
• DOCKING

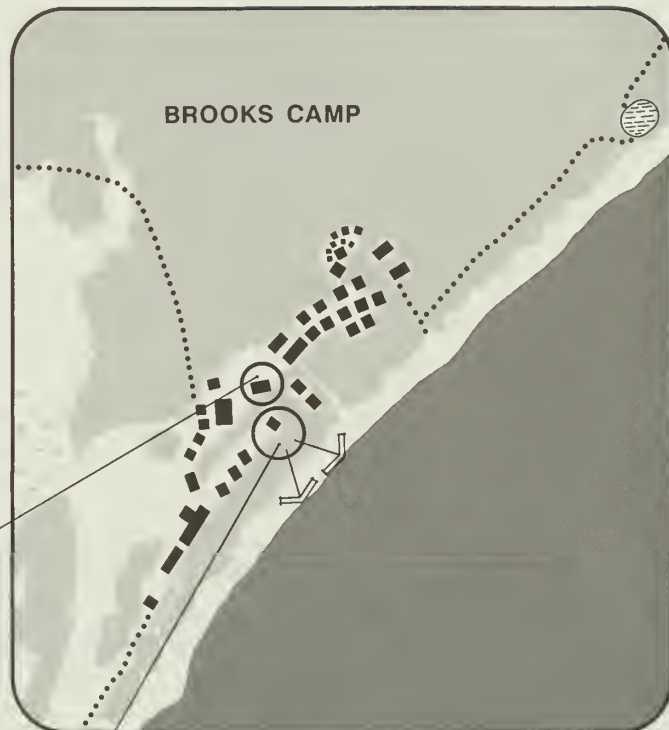
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6 FOOTBRIDGE

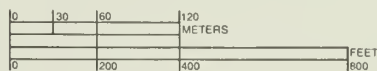
ARKING
DOWNS

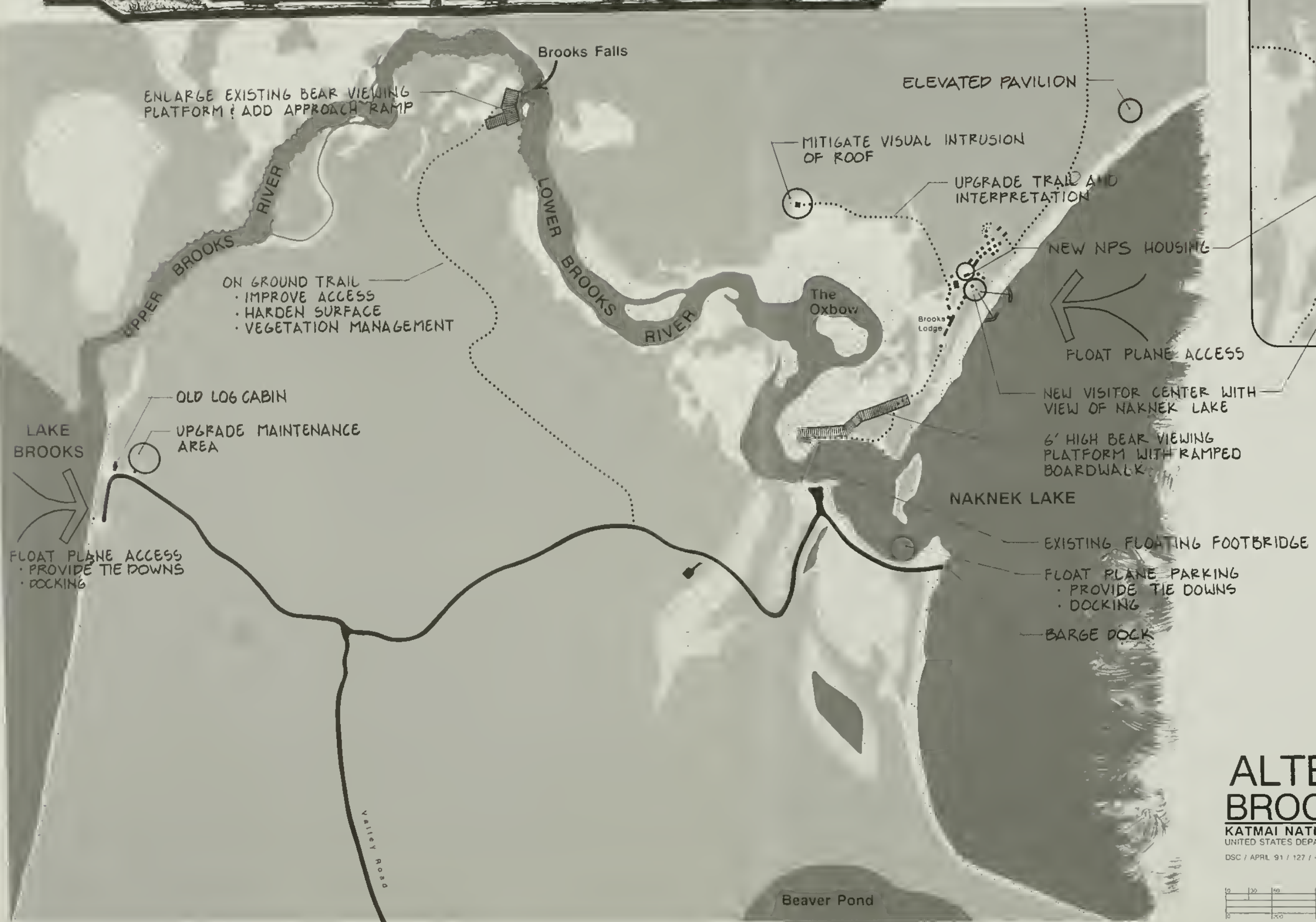
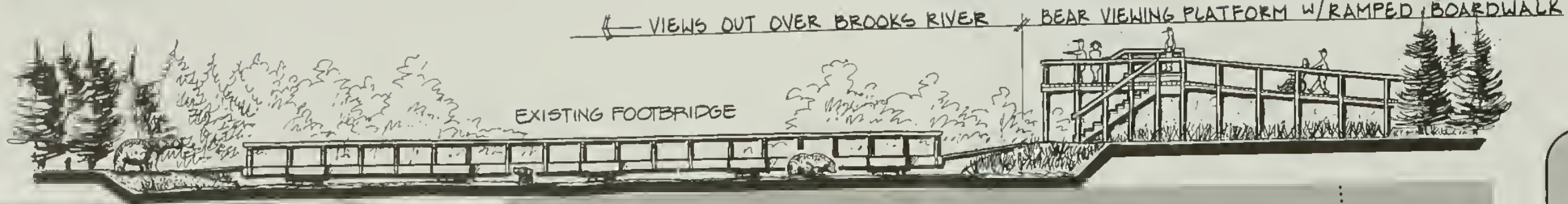


ALTERNATIVE 1 BROOKS RIVER AREA

KATMAI NATIONAL PARK AND PRESERVE
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR / NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

DSC / APRIL '91 / 127 / 40047





ALTERNATIVE 1 BROOKS RIVER AREA

KATMAI NATIONAL PARK AND PRESERVE
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR / NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

DSC / APRIL 91 / 127 / 40047

0 20 40 60 80 METERS

0 200 400 600 FEET

NORTH

addition to the 70 visitors per day, 30+ concessions and NPS staff would also be stationed at Brooks Camp in this alternative.

The majority of visitors would continue to arrive at Brooks Camp by floatplane, landing on Naknek Lake. Occasionally, weather conditions would require floatplanes to land on Brooks Lake. Visitors would then be shuttled from Brooks Lake to a staging area just south of the Brooks River footbridge. The floatplane docking areas in front of the new visitor center and on Brooks Lake will be improved to include formal tie-downs and docking facilities. The secondary floatplane docking area will remain at the beach on Brooks Lake; this area will also undergo formalization of its tie downs and docking facilities.

Immediately upon arrival, all visitors would be directed to go to the new visitor center, overlooking Naknek Lake and the floatplane landing area. The location for the new visitor center is just south of the ranger station, but not set so far back in the trees. One portion of the new visitor center complex would be designed as a sheltered gathering space to accommodate the *Bear Safety Message* presentation. This sheltered portion of the complex would function separately without interfering with other visitor center programs and activities. The proposed visitor center would assist visitors in making the best use of their time while at the Brooks River area. A short film would focus on the Brooks River area and highlight the significance and interrelationship of the landforms, people, fish and bears over a four thousand year continuum.

A visit to the reconstructed Eskimo Pit house would become more accessible for all Brooks Camp visitors. Interpretation would be upgraded along the existing trail to identify the pit house depressions. New panel exhibits would provide more in-depth interpretation of the reconstructed pit house.

From Brooks Camp, a majority of visitors would be able to access the Brooks River along a proposed elevated boardwalk. The end of this elevated boardwalk would be designed as a viewing platform, overlooking the mouth of the river. The entire length of the boardwalk would serve as a viewing platform and would provide safe access from the existing Brooks Camp development to the mouth of the river. An appropriate number of strategically placed panel exhibits would be used along the boardwalk and viewing platform to highlight the significance of the river and the interrelationship between bears, fish, and people.

The more adventuresome visitor would leave the elevated platform and cross the river on the existing footbridge to reach the dirt trail that leads to Brooks Falls. This trail would be improved, but would continue to provide visitors with an eye-level encounter with the brown bear. In an effort to reduce the threat associated with surprise encounters between humans and bears, sections of the trailside vegetation will be managed to increase sight distances along the trail as well as back into the forest. An elevated approach ramp to an expanded viewing platform near the falls would improve safety conditions and give more visitors a better opportunity to view bears.

A new facility would be provided for campers in the existing campground. This new elevated pavilion would be constructed to provide campers a common space to relax and warm their hands. It would serve both as a shelter from inclement weather and as a safe haven from bears.

Additional NPS housing units are included in this alternative and are to be located on the site presently occupied by the visitor center. The functions provided by the existing visitor center will occur in the new visitor center near the beach.

The Valley of Ten Thousand Smokes

Brooks Camp would continue to be the staging area for tours to the Valley of Ten Thousand Smokes. Interpretation for the concession bus tour would be upgraded. Both a driver and a qualified concessions interpreter would be provided on each bus tour. One interpretive overlook shuttle stop would allow visitors to view Research Bay where the early exploration of the valley began. A second shuttle stop would provide visitors a chance to use restroom facilities and stretch their legs. The second shuttle stop may be at Margot Falls. If so, the trails and overlooks at Margot Falls will be hardened through the use of wood chips, gravel, decking, or a similar treatment along with the possible addition of handrails along the more dangerous stretches. These measures are intended to protect the soil and vegetation from human impacts and to protect the visitor against the possibility of serious injury from slipping on the often wet surface and falling off the precipitous canyonside.

Interpretation would be upgraded for the existing Three Forks Overlook cabin, providing an improved presentation (within the constraints of the existing cabin structure) of the significance of this volcanic event. The cabin would provide comfortable seating and reading materials (in-depth subject matter related to Katmai) for those on tour who decide not to take the strenuous hike to the valley floor. A new ground level observation deck would be constructed in front of the cabin to give visitors an opportunity to sit and relax while enjoying the scenery, and to minimize further damage to the vegetation and soil. Panel exhibits would be provided along the deck to assist visitors in identifying the panorama of landscape features visible from this point. A new self-guide trail publication and an upgraded trail would greatly improve the visitor experience to the valley floor.

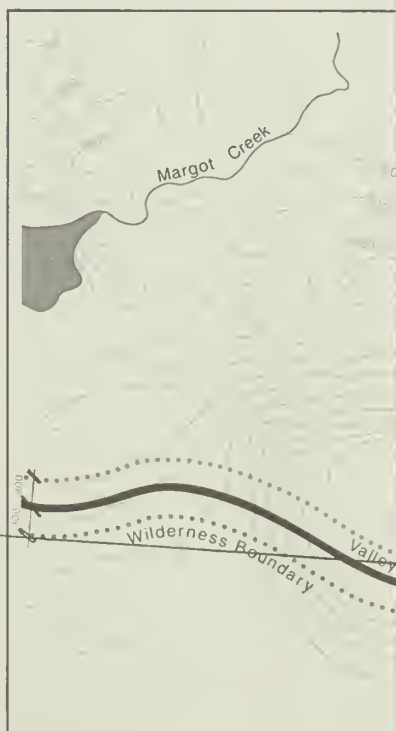
Backcountry campers would no longer be able to use the Three Forks Overlook cabin for storage or overnight camping and would thus need to set up their own camp in the backcountry.



THREE FORKS OVERLOOK

- MAINTAIN EXISTING
- UPGRADE INTERPRET
- ADD OBSERVATION /
- UPGRADE / STABILIZE T LANE
- RIVER AND ASH FLOW
- REVEGETATE IMPACTED

LAKE CAMP OVERLOOK
RETROFITVE PULLOUT.
NEW EXHIBIT.



THREE FORKS OVERLOOK

- SEE INSET MAP AT LEFT.

ALTERNATIVE 1 VICINITY BROOKS RIVER AREA

KATMAI NATIONAL PARK AND PRESERVE
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

KING SALMON

- NEW INFORMATION CENTER AT AIRPORT
- INFORMATION CENTER
- NEW NPS HOUSING
- NPS ADMINISTRATION IN LEASED BUILDING
- NEW CONCERNS
 - ARTIFACT STORAGE
 - RESEARCH LABS
 - MAINTENANCE FACILITY



LAKE CAMP WILDERNESS

NARROW LAKE

BROOKS RIVER AREA

VALLEY ROAD
• MAINTAIN ONE LANE GRAVEL ROAD.

RESEARCH BAY OVERLOOK
• INTERPRETIVE PULLOUT.
• WAYSIDE EXHIBIT.

THREE FORKS OVERLOOK

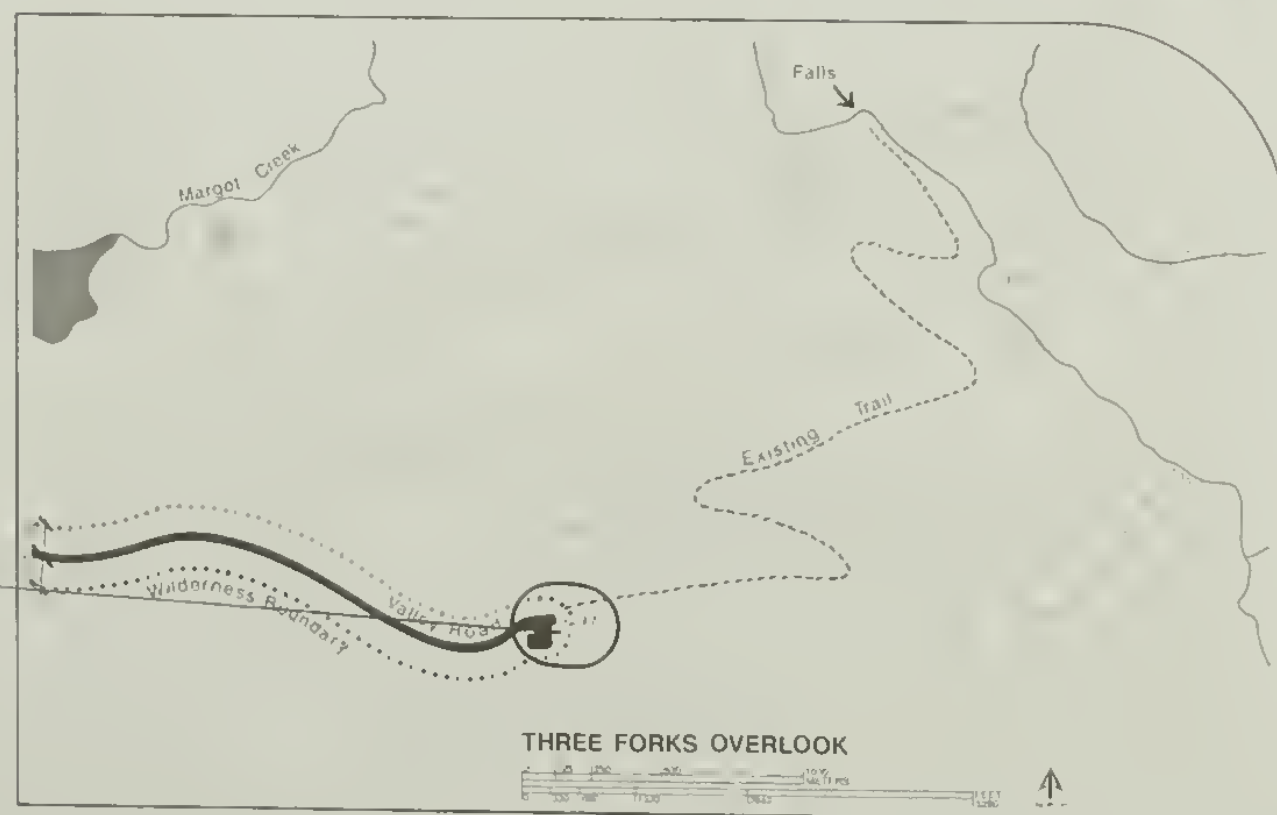
- MAINTAIN EXISTING STRUCTURE.
- UPGRADE INTERPRETATION.
- ADD OBSERVATION/PHOTOGRAPHY DECK.
- UPGRADE/STABILIZE TRAIL DOWN TO RIVER AND ASH FLOW.
- REVEGETATE IMPACTED AREAS.

THREE FORKS OVERLOOK
• SEE INSET MAP AT LEFT.

ALTERNATIVE 1 VICINITY BROOKS RIVER AREA

KATMAI NATIONAL PARK AND PRESERVE
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

DSC / APRIL 91 / 127 / 40053



THREE FORKS OVERLOOK

Scale: 0 100 200 300 400 500 600 700 800 900 1000 feet



Scale: 0 100 200 300 400 500 600 700 800 900 1000 feet

ALTERNATIVES



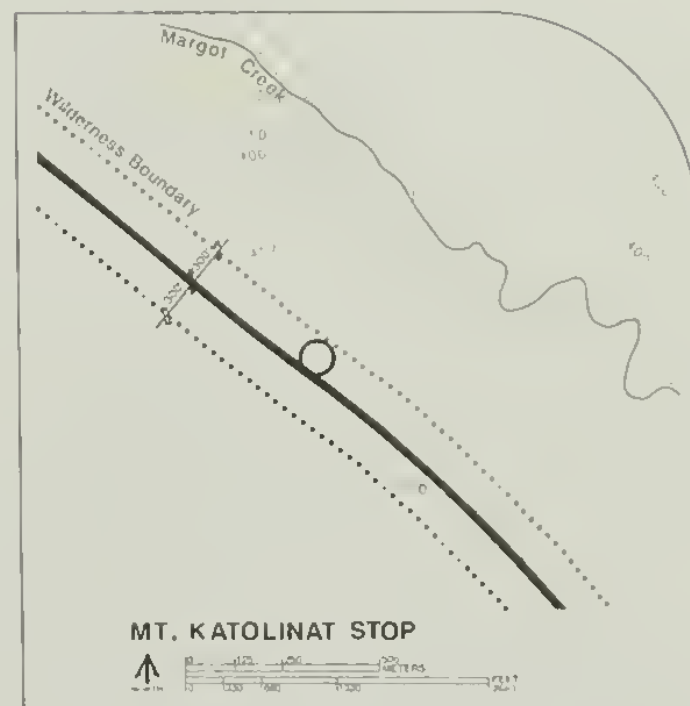
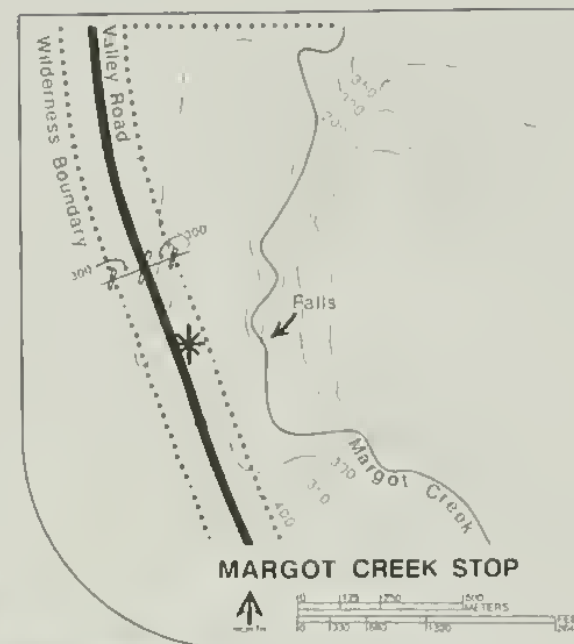
- A. MT. KATOLINAT STOP
- REST STOP ON THE WAY TO THE VALLEY OF TEN THOUSAND SMOKE.
 - REBOARD BUS PROMPTLY AND CONTINUE ON TO THE VALLEY.
- B. MARGOT CREEK STOP
- REST STOP ON THE WAY TO THE VALLEY.
 - REBOARD BUS PROMPTLY AND CONTINUE ON TO THE VALLEY.
 - REVEGETATE EXISTING TRAIL OUT TO MARGOT FALLS.
- C. MARGOT CREEK STOP AND FALLS OVERLOOK
- REST STOP ON THE WAY TO VALLEY.
 - WALK TRAIL OUT TO MARGOT FALLS BEFORE CONTINUING ON TO VALLEY.
 - HARDEN TRAIL AND OVERLOOKS.
- D. MARGOT CREEK STOP AND FALLS OVERLOOK
- REST STOP ONLY ON THE WAY TO THE VALLEY.
 - STOP ON THE WAY BACK FROM THE VALLEY TO WALK TRAIL OUT TO MARGOT FALLS.
 - HARDEN TRAIL AND OVERLOOKS.
- E. MARGOT CREEK STOP AND FALLS OVERLOOK
- REST STOP ON THE WAY TO THE VALLEY.
 - WALK TRAIL OUT TO MARGOT FALLS DURING SALMON RUN ONLY.
 - HARDEN TRAIL AND OVERLOOKS.

REST STOP ALTERNATIVES BROOKS RIVER AREA

KATMAI NATIONAL PARK AND PRESERVE
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR · NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

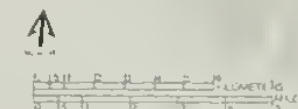
ALTERNATIVES

- A. MT. KATOLINAT STOP
 - REST STOP ON THE WAY TO THE VALLEY OF TEN THOUSAND SMOKE.
 - REBOARD BUS PROMPTLY AND CONTINUE ON TO THE VALLEY.
- B. MARGOT CREEK STOP
 - REST STOP ON THE WAY TO THE VALLEY.
 - REBOARD BUS PROMPTLY AND CONTINUE ON TO THE VALLEY.
 - REVEGETATE EXISTING TRAIL OUT TO MARGOT FALLS.
- C. MARGOT CREEK STOP AND FALLS OVERLOOK
 - REST STOP ON THE WAY TO VALLEY.
 - WALK TRAIL OUT TO MARGOT FALLS BEFORE CONTINUING ON TO VALLEY.
 - HARDEN TRAIL AND OVERLOOKS.
- D. MARGOT CREEK STOP AND FALLS OVERLOOK
 - REST STOP ONLY ON THE WAY TO THE VALLEY.
 - STOP ON THE WAY BACK FROM THE VALLEY TO WALK TRAIL OUT TO MARGOT FALLS.
 - HARDEN TRAIL AND OVERLOOKS.
- E. MARGOT CREEK STOP AND FALLS OVERLOOK
 - REST STOP ON THE WAY TO THE VALLEY.
 - WALK TRAIL OUT TO MARGOT FALLS DURING SALMON RUN ONLY.
 - HARDEN TRAIL AND OVERLOOKS.



MARGOT CREEK STOP
(ABOVE INSET)

MT. KATOLINAT STOP
(INSET TO LEFT)



REST STOP ALTERNATIVES BROOKS RIVER AREA

KATMAI NATIONAL PARK AND PRESERVE
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR / NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

ALTERNATIVE 2

ALTERNATIVE 2

MAJOR OBJECTIVES

1. Manage for no increased impacts to resources while maintaining some facilities at their present locations.
2. Limit visitation to the 1989-1990 levels.
3. Provide a focal point for interpretation (new visitor center with a view).
4. Maintain a quality overnight experience - add cabins but keep same pillow count.
5. Consolidate employee housing and maintenance facilities along Valley Road.

VISITOR EXPERIENCE AND INTERPRETATION

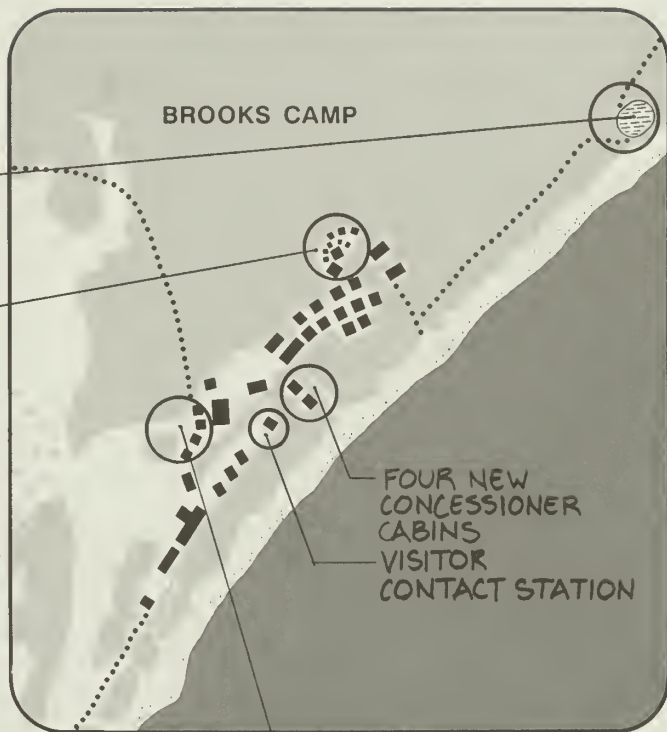
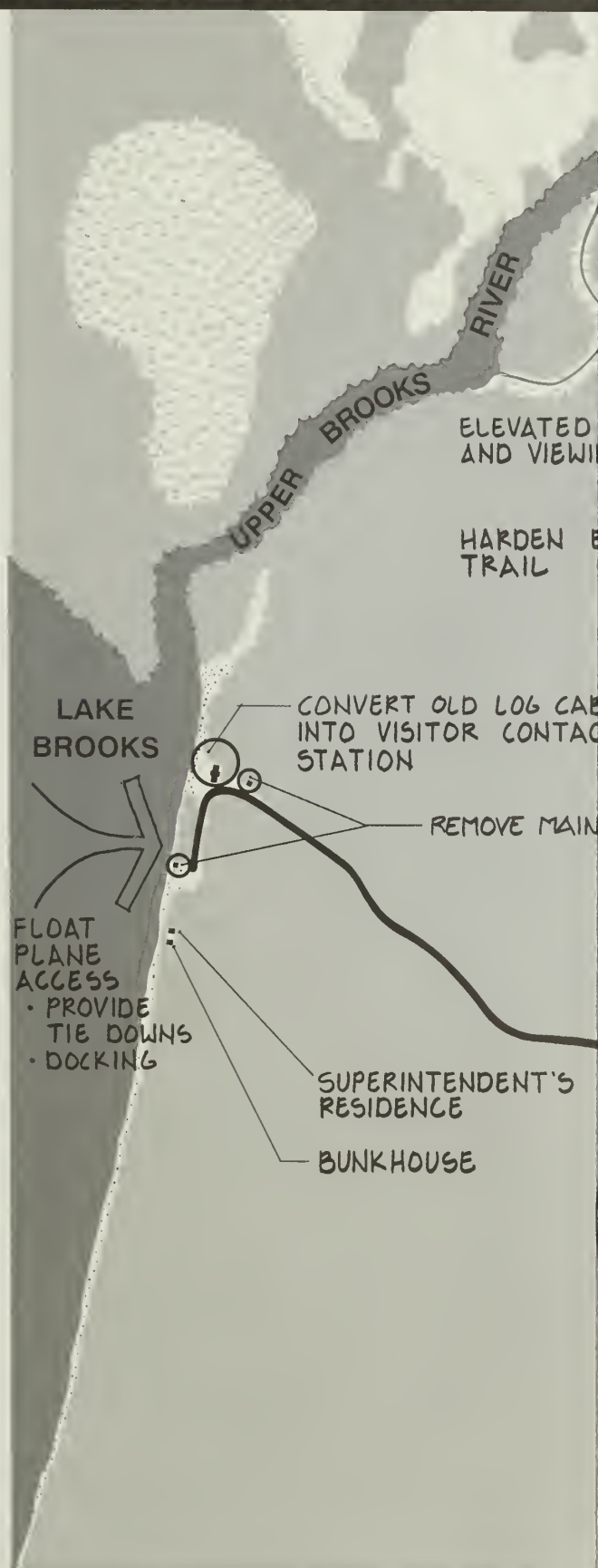
King Salmon

A Joint Interagency Information Center (staffed) would be located adjacent to the airport in King Salmon. Since King Salmon serves as a staging area for most all sightseeing and recreational activities in this region, the appropriate federal, state, and local agencies would be represented to assist visitors in planning their stay. A short audiovisual presentation and exhibit area would highlight the significance of the resources and the various types of opportunities available in the region. The facility would also serve as a trip planning center where visitors could ask questions, obtain information and maps and make final decisions on supplies and logistic arrangements.

A new NPS administration building will be constructed in the town of King Salmon in an effort to provide a higher level of visibility for the NPS presence there. Also to be constructed in King Salmon are NPS quarters, a research and artifact storage facility, and a maintenance facility.

Brooks River

Under this alternative, the traditional Brooks Camp experience (small lodge setting within the prime resource) would be maintained; however the quality of the visitor experience would be significantly upgraded. Actions within this alternative will have only a limited affect on use in the immediate Brooks Camp area. The overnight experience, the small lodge setting, and the feeling that you are eye to eye with the bears would continue. The new visitor center would be located on a ridge, overlooking the Brooks River oxbow, would become the focus for bear viewing (second only to Brooks Falls) and the center of visitor activity. An expanded interpretive program with a new visitor center, film, and an increased number of roving interpretive rangers would ensure that visitors leave Brooks River with a better understanding of the area's significance.



ENCES SPONSE
AND VIEWING

HARDEN
TRAIL

ACCESS

CONCERNER CABINS

W/ DECK & VIEW OF OXBOW
LAKES

AND BOARDWALK

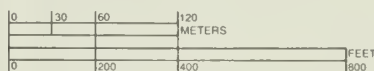
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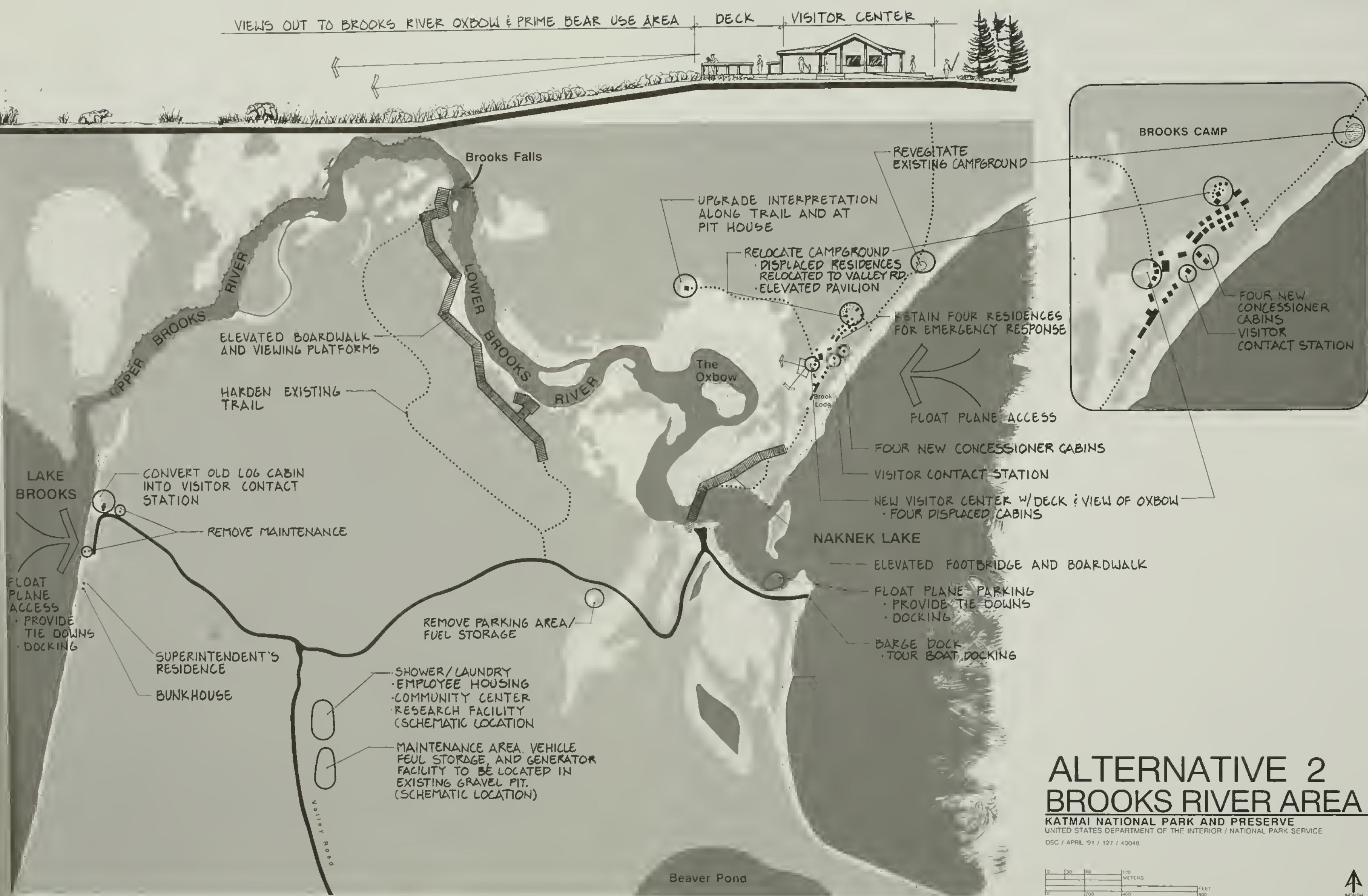
ALTERNATIVE 2 BROOKS RIVER AREA

KATMAI NATIONAL PARK AND PRESERVE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR / NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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A major component of this alternative is to maintain the traditional Brooks River experience by holding visitor use to the 1989-1990 level which was an average of 101 people per day. Facilities would be upgraded to comfortably accommodate this level of use and the 30+ concession and NPS staff it takes to run the program. On any given day during the season as many as 140 people could be in the Brooks River area, and peak days in July could conceivably reach 200 people per day. Restrictions on arrivals from all sources would have to be implemented to maintain the 1989-1990 use level. The distribution of visitors in the Brooks River area would be quite similar to that in Alternative 1.

The majority of visitors would continue to arrive at Brooks Camp by floatplane landing on Naknek Lake. Occasionally, weather conditions would require floatplanes to land on Brooks Lake. The floatplane docking areas along the beach on Naknek Lake, Brooks Lake, and the mouth of the Brooks River will be upgraded through the addition of formal docking facilities and tie downs. Better boat docking facilities that could dock large tour boats will be constructed south of the river mouth. Immediately upon arrival, all visitors would be directed to go to the new visitor contact station, overlooking Naknek Lake and the floatplane landing area. The visitor contact portion of this new facility would be designed as a sheltered gathering space to accommodate the *Bear Safety Message* presentation. This sheltered portion of the complex would function separately without interfering with the activities occurring inside the visitor contact station. This contact station would assist visitors in making the best use of their time while at the Brooks River area.

A new visitor center, distinct from the visitor contact station and overlooking the Brooks River oxbow, would become the new focus of activity for the Brooks Camp development. For a majority of visitors, the new visitor center would become one of the primary bear viewing locations in the park. This view from the Brooks River oxbow overlook would be a critical element in the design of the facility. The new visitor center would be located on a site presently occupied by four concessioner cabins. These displaced cabins will be relocated to a scenic site with a commanding view of the Naknek Lake beach immediately north of the existing ranger station. A portion of the visitor center complex would create a lodge type setting, where visitors could sit, relax, and enjoy viewing both the wildlife and scenery of Brooks River. An integral part of this visitor center complex will be a large, partially covered deck. This will provide visitors an opportunity get out of the elements without taking up space in the lounge of the concessioner's lodge. Another primary attraction in the visitor center would be a major film that would focus on the Brooks River area, stressing the significance and interrelationship of the landforms, people, bears, and fish over a four thousand year continuum. This film, along with increased numbers of roving interpretive rangers and additional interpretive programs would bring all the significant resource pieces together, creating a total visitor experience that would go beyond a one dimensional focus on fishing, bear viewing, or sightseeing.

A visit to the reconstructed Eskimo Pit house would become more accessible for all Brooks Camp visitors. Interpretation would be upgraded along the existing trail to identify the pit house depressions. New panel exhibits would provide more in-depth interpretation of the reconstructed pit house.

From Brooks Camp, a majority of visitors would be able to access the Brooks River along a proposed elevated boardwalk. The entire length of the boardwalk would serve as a viewing platform and would provide safe access from the existing Brooks Camp development to the mouth of the river. An appropriate number of strategically placed panel exhibits would be used along the boardwalk and viewing platform to highlight the significance of the river and the interrelationship between bears, fish, and people.

The more adventuresome visitor would cross the river on an new elevated bridge (an extension of the elevated boardwalk) to access a loop trail that leads to Brooks Falls. Portions of this loop trail would utilize the existing trail tread (upgraded to mitigate existing erosion impacts) at ground level. A new elevated board walk, located roughly parallel to the river's edge, would comprise another portion of the trail. This elevated segment of the loop trail along the river would connect a new elevated platform at Brooks Falls with a new elevated platform near the Brooks River cut bank. The ground level portion of the loop trail would continue to provide the traditional eye-level encounter with the brown bear.

The campground will be moved closer to Brooks Camp to the area presently occupied by NPS housing. This move effectively removes campers from critical beach front bear habitat. Moving the campground to this location also will tighten Brooks Camp's overall footprint, thus somewhat simplifying visitor protection activities. A new elevated pavilion would be constructed to provide campers a common space to relax and warm their hands. It would serve both as a shelter from inclement weather and as a safe haven from bears.

Those NPS housing units displaced by the campground's relocation will be moved out of Brooks Camp. Along with most of the concessioner housing, the majority of the NPS housing will be removed from Brooks Camp and relocated to the area around the north end of the Valley Road to a location that is neither prime bear habitat or an archeological site. This alternative does not propose that all quarters be moved out of Brooks Camp as there is a definite need for essential park and concessions personnel to remain on site at all times to provide adequate visitor protection. The housing development to be constructed near the north end of the Valley Road will also include such related facilities as a community center and shower building. Also, a research facility for resident and visiting scientists will be constructed.

The maintenance facility located near Brooks Lake and the parking/fuel storage area near the footbridge are to be relocated to a new facility to be constructed on the site of an existing borrow pit along the north end of the Valley Road. Situated just south of the proposed housing development, this maintenance facility would include a centralized generator providing electrical power to the Brooks Camp and Brooks Lake facilities. Consequently, the existing generator will be removed from its present location, thus eliminating a source of intrusive noise in close proximity to the campground and Brooks Camp housing areas.

The Valley of Ten Thousand Smokes

The new visitor center would provide the staging area for tours to the Valley of Ten Thousand Smokes. Interpretation for the concession bus tour would be upgraded. Both a driver and a qualified concessions interpreter would be provided on each bus tour. One interpretive overlook shuttle stop would allow visitors to view Research Bay where the early exploration of the valley began. A second shuttle stop, possibly at Margot Falls, would provide visitors a chance to use restroom facilities and stretch their legs (see Alternative 1, Rest Stop Alternatives map). If Margot Falls is selected as the overlook, the trails and overlooks will be hardened through the use of wood chips, gravel, decking, or a similar treatment along with the possible addition of handrails along the more dangerous stretches. These measures are intended to protect the soil and



THREE FORKS OVERLOOK

- NEW INTERPRETIVE CONT
- ORIENTATION.
- INTERPRETATION (NO P
- OBSERVATION ROOM ANE
- OBSERVATION / PHOTOGRAPHY
- PIT TOILETS
- NEW PRIMITIVE CAMP
- REVEGETATE IMPACT
- BAY OVERLOOK
- PULLOUT.
- EXHIBITS.



THREE FORKS OVERLOOK

- SEE INSET MAP AT LEFT.

ALTERNATIVE 2 VICINITY BROOKS RIVER AREA

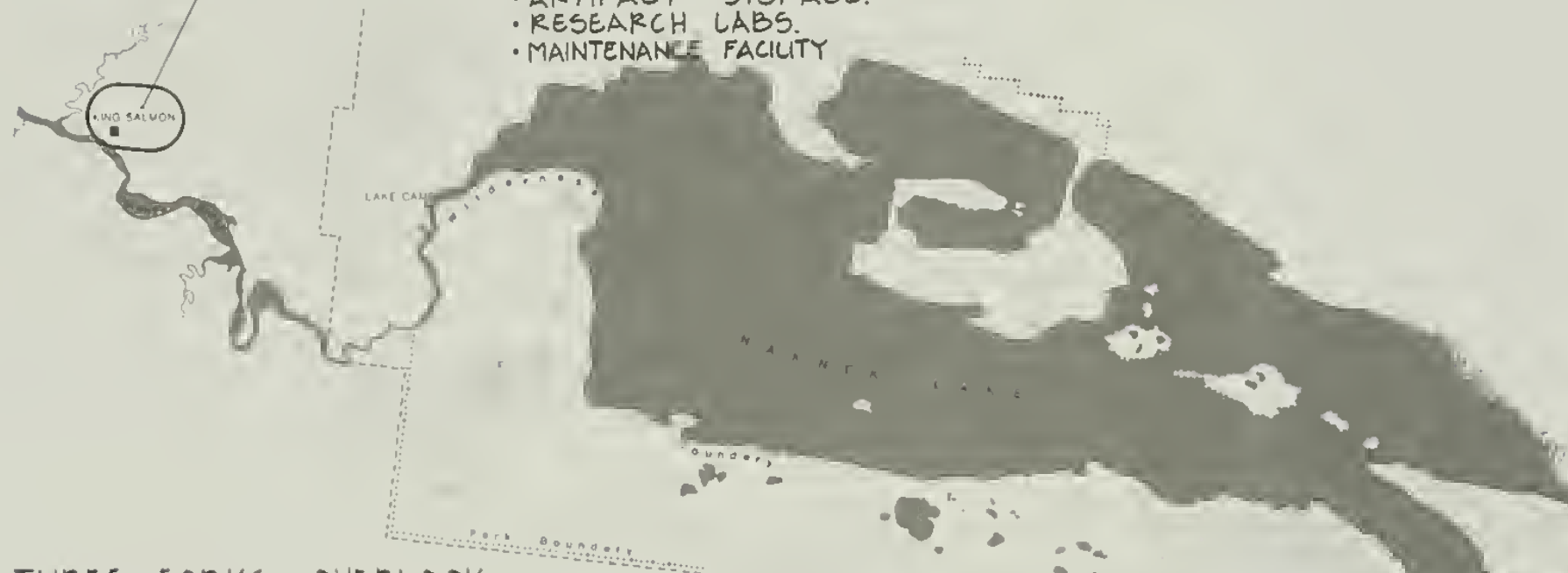
KATMAI NATIONAL PARK AND PRESERVE
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR / NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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KING SALMON (1982 DCP)

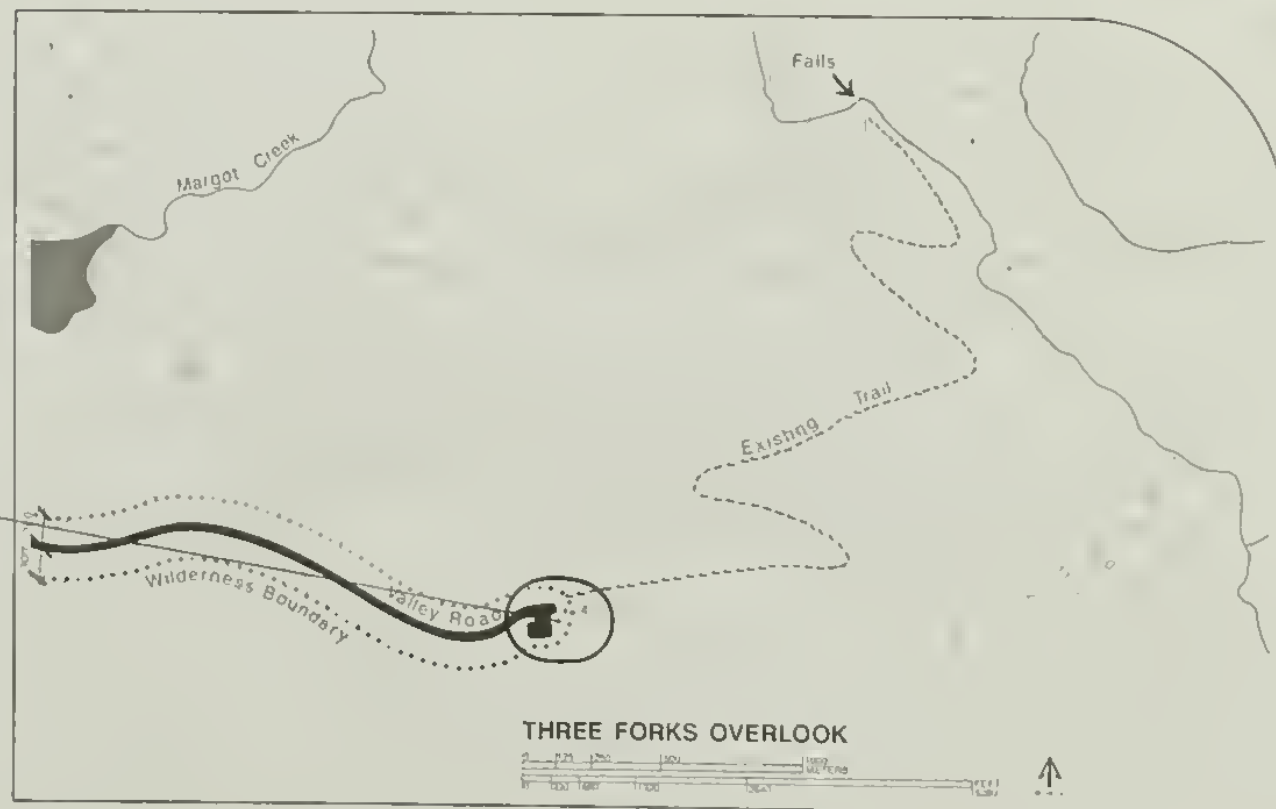
- JOINT INFORMATION CENTER.
AT AIRPORT.
- NEW NPS ADMINISTRATION BUILDING.
- NEW NPS HOUSING.

- NEW CONCERNS.
- ARTIFACT STORAGE.
- RESEARCH LABS.
- MAINTENANCE FACILITY



THREE FORKS OVERLOOK

- NEW INTERPRETIVE CONTACT FACILITY (NON-STAFFED).
- ORIENTATION.
- INTERPRETATION (NO POWER)
- OBSERVATION ROOM
- OBSERVATION/PHOTOGRAPHY DECK
- PIT TOILETS
- NEW PRIMITIVE CAMPGROUND AND LEAN-TO
- REVEGETATE IMPACTED AREAS



BROOKS RIVER
AREA

VALLEY ROAD
• MAINTAIN ONE LANE
GRAVEL ROAD.

RESEARCH BAY OVERLOOK
• INTERPRETIVE PULLOUT.
• WAYSIDE EXHIBITS.

THREE FORKS OVERLOOK
• SEE INSET MAP AT LEFT.

THREE FORKS
OVERLOOK



ALTERNATIVE 2 VICINITY BROOKS RIVER AREA

KATMAI NATIONAL PARK AND PRESERVE
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR / NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
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vegetation from human impacts and to protect the visitor against the possibility of serious injury from slipping on the often wet surface and falling off the precipitous canyonside.

A new interpretive facility would replace the existing Three Forks Overlook cabin. Unlike the existing cabin with its makeshift interpretive presentation, this new facility (unstaffed/no electricity) would be designed to present a more thorough and concise presentation of the significance of this volcanic event. This new interpretive facility would also provide comfortable seating and reading materials (in-depth subject matter related to Katmai) for those on tour who decide not to take the strenuous hike to the valley floor. The front of this new structure would be designed to serve as an outdoor observation deck (ground level) which would allow visitors an opportunity to sit and relax while enjoying the scenery. Panel exhibits would be provided along the deck to assist visitors in identifying the panorama of landscape features visible from this point. A new self-guide trail publication and an upgraded trail would greatly improve the visitor experience to the valley floor.

Backcountry campers would not be allowed to use the new visitor contact center for storage or overnight camping. A new primitive campground with primitive toilets and lean-tos would be located in the vicinity, but out of view from the new visitor contact center.

ALTERNATIVE 3

ALTERNATIVE 3

MAJOR OBJECTIVES

1. Accommodate increased visitor use by construction of new facilities at Iliuk Moraine.
2. The new facilities become the destination focus for the park.
3. Decrease impacts on resources in the Brooks River area.
4. Brooks River becomes a day-use-only area which provides predictable visitor use patterns for habituated bears.
5. Extend season through October for bear viewing, ranger guided after September 10.
6. Consolidate maintenance facilities, upgrade housing, upgrade emergency response capabilities.

VISITOR EXPERIENCE AND INTERPRETATION

King Salmon

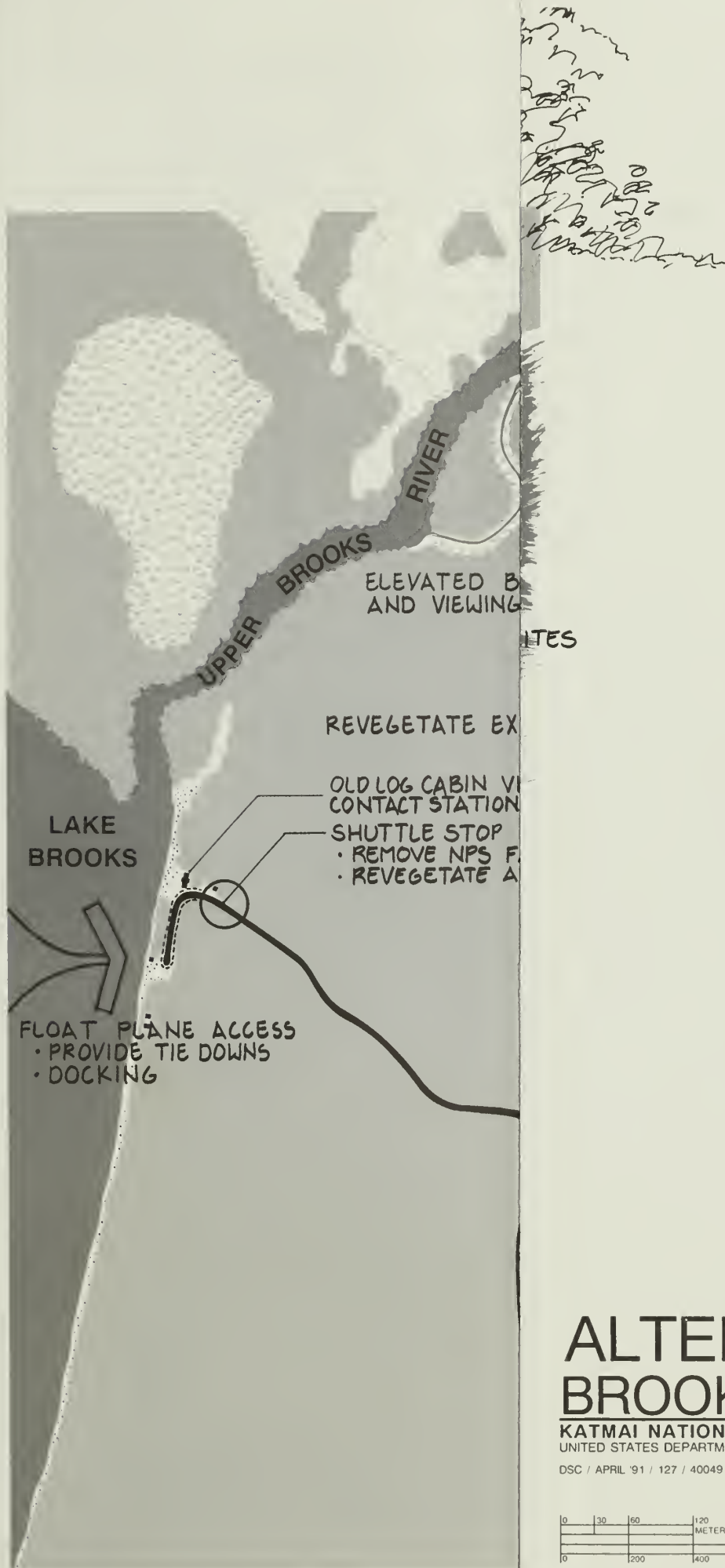
A Joint Interagency Information Center (staffed) would be located adjacent to the airport in King Salmon. Since King Salmon serves as a staging area for most all sightseeing and recreational activities in this region, the appropriate federal, state, and local agencies would be represented to assist visitors in planning their stay. A short audiovisual presentation and exhibit area would highlight the significance of the resources and the various types of opportunities available in the region. The facility would also serve as a trip planning center where visitors could ask questions, obtain information and maps and make final decisions on supplies and logistic arrangements.

A new administration building would be constructed in King Salmon to provide increased visibility for NPS presence. In addition to this administration building, this alternative proposes the construction of additional NPS quarters and a building to serve as a research and artifact storage facility, as well as a maintenance facility.

Brooks River

All facilities and functions presently located on the north side of the Brooks River will be removed and relocated to a site on the crest of Iliuk Moraine. Functions located on the south side of the Brooks River include a system of elevated boardwalks and viewing platforms, and a staging area for a shuttle bus which will transport visitors to and from the new visitor services complex on Iliuk Moraine.

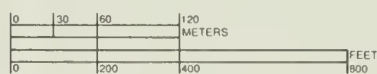
Under this alternative, the traditional Brooks Camp experience (small lodge setting within the prime resource) would no longer occur. Actions within this alternative will result in a substantial increase in visitation, primarily due to increases in lodging and camping visitors. Based on past experience, lodgers tend to stay in the Brooks Camp area an average of 2.75 days, and campers



ALTERNATIVE 3 BROOKS RIVER AREA

KATMAI NATIONAL PARK AND PRESERVE
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Brooks Falls

BEAR VIEWING PLATFORM AT BROOKS FALLS

UPPER BROOKS RIVER

ELEVATED BOARDWALK AND VIEWING PLATFORMS

LOWER BROOKS RIVER

The Oxbow

REMOVE ALL FACILITIES NORTH OF RIVER

REVEGETATE EXISTING TRAIL

OLD LOG CABIN VISITOR CONTACT STATION
SHUTTLE STOP
• REMOVE NPS FACILITIES
• REVEGETATE AREA

LAKE BROOKS

BOAT PLANE ACCESS
PROVIDE TIE DOWNS
DOCKING

TRAILHEAD/CONTACT STATION
• ORIENTATION TO BROOKS RIVER WALK
• DAY USE SHELTER
• REST ROOMS
• SHUTTLE STOP

REMOVE FLOATING FOOTBRIDGE

NAKNEK LAKE

ON GROUND CULTURAL VILLAGE

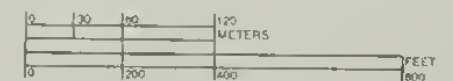
REMOVE AND REVEGETATE
SEGMENT OF EXISTING ROAD

VALLEY ROAD
ILIUK MORaine AREA
• CONCESSIONER'S OPERATIONS
• CAMPGROUND
• EMPLOYEE HOUSING
• MAINTENANCE
• SHUTTLE TO BROOKS RIVER AREA.

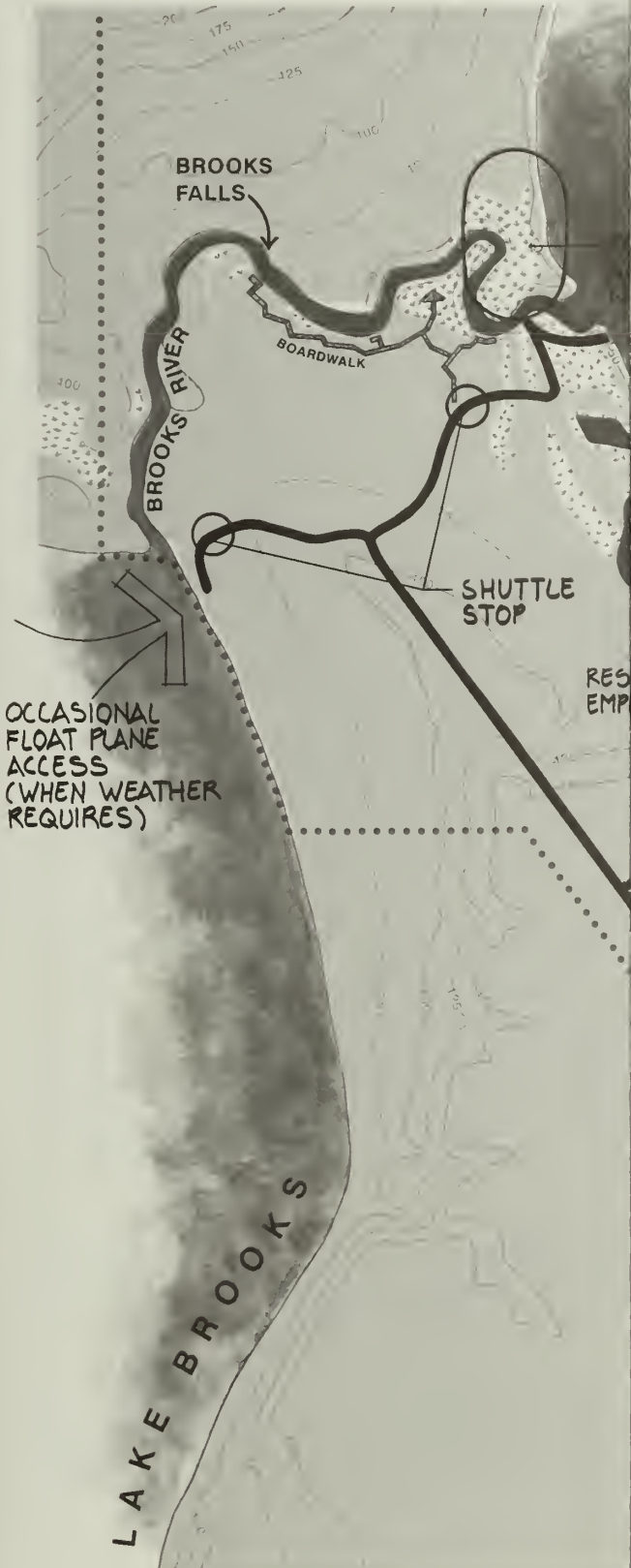
Beaver Pond

ALTERNATIVE 3 BROOKS RIVER AREA

KATMAI NATIONAL PARK AND PRESERVE
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SHUTTLE LOT BROOKS LODGE W/VIEWS C



TRAIL SYSTEM ALONG
SHORELINE AND ON
TOP OF MORaine

VIEW OF BROOKS RIVER

SHUTTLE
STOP

RES
EMP

OCCASIONAL
FLOAT PLANE
ACCESS
(WHEN WEATHER
REQUIRES)

ALTERNATIVE 3 ILIUK MORaine

KATMAI NATIONAL PARK AND PRESERVE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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SHUTTLE LOT BROOKS LODGE W/VIEWS OF NAKNEK LAKE VEGETATIVE SCREENING CONCESSIONER'S CABINS W/VIEW OF LAKE



ALTERNATIVE 3 ILIUK MORaine

KATMAI NATIONAL PARK AND PRESERVE
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3.5 days. This alternative calls for increases in both lodging rooms and camping spaces. Day use visitation will increase at a slightly higher rate due to new attractions. It is anticipated that visitor use will increase by approximately 63 percent, to an average of 17,300 visitor use days each season, or an average of 169 a day. July will average around 225 persons per day, with some days approaching 260 persons. If growth increases at a heavier rate due to marketing by transportation carriers, restrictions on arrivals may have to be considered. It should be noted that due to the location of the lodging, camping and visitor center facilities, visitors will be dispersed throughout a wider area, and not concentrated in the river area as much as they currently are. This maximum use limit of 260 people per day would help ensure both a quality visitor experience, and improve resource protection. A combined concessions and NPS staff of 50+ people will be needed to work the proposed development, which places the total of people in the Brooks River/Iliuk Moraine area to nearly 300 per day at peak times in July.

The alternative provides a larger scale overnight resort type experience. This new visitor center/lodge complex would probably become more of a destination for a Katmai National Park experience rather than just a Brooks River experience. The new Iliuk Moraine visitor center would become the focus of visitor activity with the Valley of Ten Thousand Smokes tours playing a larger role in the visitor experience. The expanded interpretive program would give visitors a better understanding of the significance and resources that comprise all of Katmai NP&P.

The majority of visitors would continue to arrive by floatplane. Floatplane access to the new visitor services facilities constructed on the moraine will be located along the beach on Naknek Lake a few hundred yards east of the Beaver Pond. In addition to these floatplane related issues, this location also offers a feasible route for a roadway up to the moraine from the beach. Anticipating an increased reliance upon boats as a means of accessing the Brooks River area, this beach development will include a wharf serving boat and barge traffic. Also included in this area will be formal floatplane tie downs and docking facilities, and on-shore shelters for floatplane storage. A small ranger contact station will be constructed to provide initial visitor information and dispatch shuttles. No floatplane landing would be allowed on either the north or south sides of the Brooks River mouth. Occasionally, weather conditions would require floatplanes to land on Brooks Lake.

A simple system of gravel roads will be constructed to connect the beach landing area with those facilities located on Iliuk Moraine. The high terrace located at the crest of the near end of the moraine offers a superb site for placing visitor facilities. The topography of this landform provides horizontal and vertical diversity allowing buildings to wrap around the contours and take advantage of the natural terracing of the moraine. For example, the new visitor center will be situated to take advantage of the breath-taking panorama of Naknek Lake, Iliuk Arm, and the surrounding mountains. In addition to its orientation and interpretation functions, the visitor center will include an observation deck providing a gathering place with protection from the elements.

Concessioner facilities such as the lodge, store, and cabins will be sited to take full advantage of the landform as well. The lodge, with its dining and lounge facilities can offer patrons scenic views while the cabins can make use of the diverse topography to maximize desirable solar exposures, views, and privacy.

Visitors would step off the bus and receive the *Bear Safety Message* presentation in a sheltered staging area that would be designed so as not to interfere with other visitor center or lodge functions. The new visitor center would assist visitors in making the best use of their time while at the Brooks River area. While the new visitor center interpretive program would focus on the

Brooks River area, it would also provide more in-depth interpretation for all of Katmai NP&P. A major film(s) and exhibits would focus on the Brooks River area, stressing the significance and interrelationship of the landforms, people, bears, and fish over a four thousand year continuum, as well as placing the Brooks River area within the context of the larger story of Katmai NP&P.

Another major function of the new visitor center would be to provide a lodge type of setting, where visitors could sit, relax, and enjoy the dramatic panoramic views of Iliuk Arm and the surrounding mountain ranges that frame this arm of Naknek Lake. The spectacular view from Iliuk Moraine, overlooking the Iliuk Arm of Naknek Lake would be a critical element in the design of the new visitor center. Interpretive trails would lead from the new visitor center to various locations at the west end of Iliuk Arm, allowing visitors to learn about the area's wildlife, its vegetation, and the glacial forces that created this landscape. Since this area is less frequented by bears, visitors (using caution) could walk the lakeshore or experience the scenic vistas visible from the ridges of the moraine, including a view of the Brooks River mouth.

A new campground would be located within reasonable walking distance of the new Iliuk Moraine visitor center/lodge complex. Moving the campground onto the moraine site removes campers and their food caches from the prime bear habitat of the beach area. The campground itself will be situated to provide scenic views and be in close proximity to the visitor services found at the visitor center and concessioner operations. An elevated pavilion would be constructed in the campground to provide campers a common space to relax and warm their hands. It would serve both as a shelter from inclement weather and as a safe haven from bears.

Maintenance operations will be located on the terrace overlooking the Beaver Pond. This site removes maintenance activities from the primary visitor use zone. Maintenance activities are further removed from the visitor use areas by a separate road linking this area with the Valley Road.

Also located above the Beaver Pond, but provided with adequate visual and audio separation from the maintenance area, will be the NPS and concessioner housing area as well as a modern research facility. Placing the research facility and quarters on this ridge places employees in a scenic environment without competing for space needed for visitor facilities on the moraine.

From the new visitor center/lodge complex on Iliuk Moraine, visitors would be shuttled to the Brooks River trailhead/contact station just south of the river. Visitors would be oriented to what they are about to experience and receive an abbreviated *Bear Safety Message*. From the contact station, visitors would immediately step onto an elevated boardwalk system that would take visitors along the south side of the river from its mouth to Brooks Falls. This elevated boardwalk would connect with four elevated bear viewing platforms along the south side of the river. Strategically positioned, these platforms will offer premium opportunities for bear viewing and photography while not being within sight of each other. The alignment of the boardwalk will make use of existing gaps in the forest vegetation to weave in, out, and through the forest. This routing will ensure that the walkway will not visually dominate the edge of the river and will avoid long, straight, monotonous stretches. An appropriate number of panel exhibits would be used along the boardwalk and viewing platforms to highlight the significance of the river and the interrelationship between bears, fish, and people.

The Brooks River trailhead/contact station would also provide ground level access to a new Cultural Interpretive Village. Visitors would walk only a short distance to discover four thousand years of human history associated with the Brooks River area. A cultural interpretive village

would be developed in the general area of the existing Eskimo pit houses. A range of interpretive techniques (including the interpretation of existing pit house depressions through various stages of pit house reconstructions) would be used to create a village atmosphere and raise the cultural story to prominent status.

The Valley of Ten Thousand Smokes

The Iliuk Moraine visitor center would provide the staging area for tours to the Valley of Ten Thousand Smokes. Interpretation for the concession bus tour would be upgraded. Both a driver and a qualified concessions interpreter would be provided on each bus tour. The Valley Road to the Three Forks Overlook will be upgraded (still gravel) and widened to provide room for two traffic lanes. This will be necessary due to the increased volume of traffic resulting from the addition of half day trips to the valley as well as the shuttle traffic down to the Brooks River boardwalk and cultural exhibit. Visitors would have the opportunity to choose either full day or half day tours. The half day valley tour would allow visitors ample time to see the valley and view bears along the river in one day which is, in fact, an opportunity much in demand at present. One interpretive overlook shuttle stop would allow visitors to view Research Bay where the early exploration of the valley began. A second shuttle stop would provide visitors a chance to use restroom facilities and stretch their legs (see Alternative 1, Rest Stop Alternatives map).

A new interpretive facility would replace the existing Three Forks Overlook cabin. Unlike the existing cabin with its makeshift interpretive presentation, this new facility (staffed/with electricity) would be designed to bring this dramatic volcanic event to life. Television monitor(s) would provide the opportunity to present historical images and animation to recreate the episode and history of the Mount Katmai eruption. A variety of video cassette films on a range of other topics related to the valley's history would provide in-depth interpretation for those visitors who are on the tour but choose not to hike to the valley floor. This new interpretive facility would also provide comfortable seating and reading materials (in-depth subject matter related to Katmai). The front of this new structure would be designed to serve as an outdoor observation deck (ground level) which would allow visitors an opportunity to sit and relax while enjoying the scenery. Panel exhibits would be provided along the deck to assist visitors in identifying the panorama of landscape features visible from this point.

A new self-guide trail publication and an upgraded trail system would greatly improve the visitor experience to the valley floor. Visitors would be able to take the trail from the overlook down to the valley floor where they would meet the bus (new spur road segment) without having to make the strenuous return climb back to the new overlook. This road will access a new trailhead near the ash cliffs. The road's alignment will use the surrounding landforms to ensure its invisibility from the Three Forks Overlook. With the addition of this proposed road, the tour bus will be able to pick up tour participants not wishing to make the long uphill hike back to the overlook from the ash cliffs. Since the Brooks River area is day use only, in this alternative a real need arises to provide half day tours to the Valley of Ten Thousand Smokes. Visitors want to tour the valley, view bears, and perhaps fish for a while before flying out in the late afternoon. In order to accomplish this, time must be saved somewhere from the valley tour. The least desirable time segment now on the valley tour is the hike from the falls and ash cliffs back up to the Three Forks Overlook. Strangers really hold back the whole tour. The only way to save this time is to have the group at the falls hike out on a new trail that contours the slope until they meet the bus. Other time could be saved by shorter rest stops to and from the Valley of Ten Thousand Smokes. By saving time, the visitor experience is improved.

The proposed new gravel spur road below the Three Forks Overlook would be an intrusion into designated wilderness. The wilderness boundary is set 300 feet back from the edge of the existing road. This proposal for the spur road would require redesignation of the wilderness boundary by Congress before action could be taken. The spur road shown on the Vicinity map in Alternative 3 would have a 600-foot-wide corridor and would be about 1.25 miles long which equals approximately 91 acres. To offset this intrusion into the wilderness, this alternative proposes the addition of the approximately 640 acres vacated north of the Brooks River to designated wilderness.

Backcountry campers would not be allowed to use the new visitor contact center for storage or overnight camping. A new primitive campground with primitive toilets and shelters would be located in the vicinity, but out of view from the new visitor contact center.



THREE FORKS OVERLOOK

- NEW INTERPRETIVE CONTAINER
- ORIENTATION
- INTERPRETATION (POWER LINES)
- VIDEO/EXHIBITS
- OBSERVATION ROOM
- OBSERVATION/PHOTOGRAPHY BAY OVERLOOK
- PIT TOILETS
- NEW PRIMITIVE CAMP
- REVEGETATE IMPACTED EXHIBIT
- FULL AND HALF DAY TRAIL
- NEW GRAVEL SPUR ROAD



THREE FORKS OVERLOOK

- SEE INSET MAP AT LEFT

ALTERNATIVE 3 VICINITY BROOKS RIVER AREA

KATMAI NATIONAL PARK AND PRESERVE
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR / NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

ANCHORAGE
 • PROVIDE ORIENTATION/INFORMATION IN AIRLINE TERMINALS TO KING SALMON

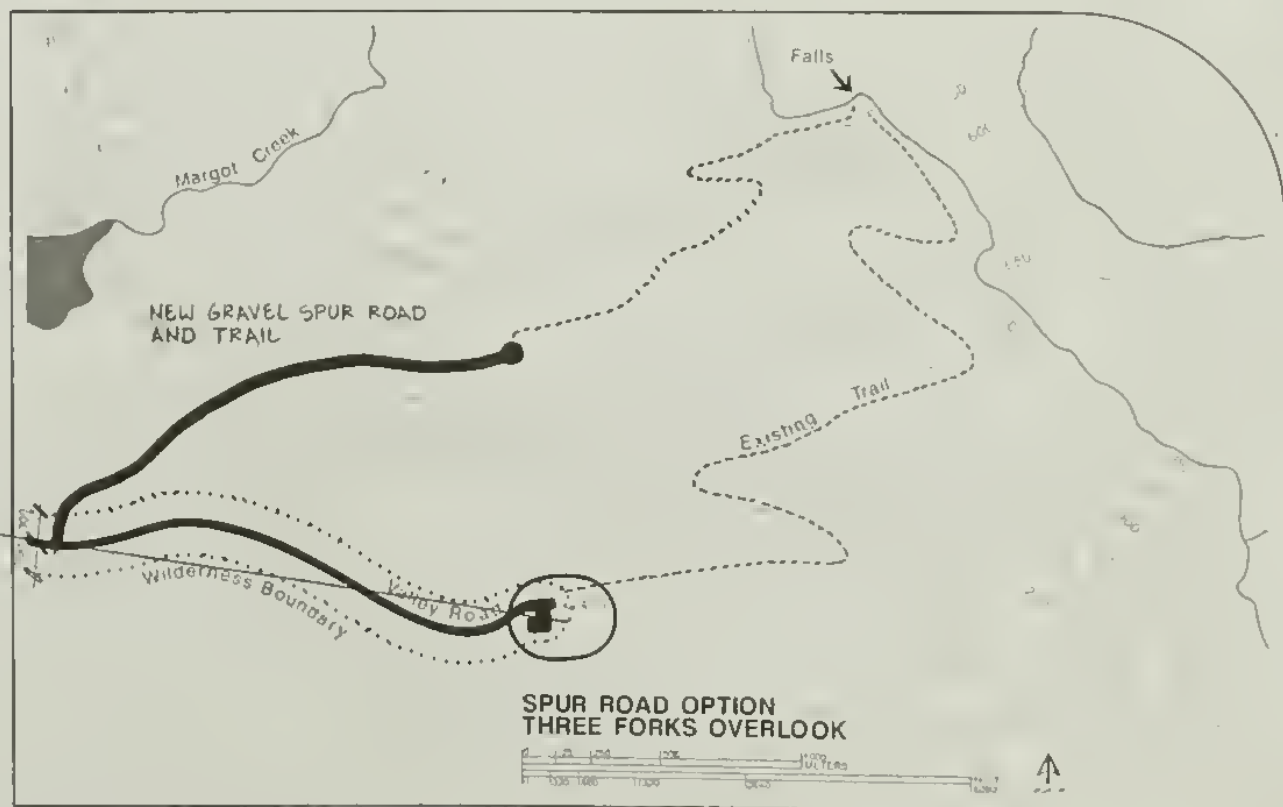
KING SALMON (1982 DCP)
 • JOINT INFORMATION CENTER AT AIRPORT.
 • NEW NPS ADMINISTRATION BUILDING
 • NEW NPS HOUSING.
 • ARTIFACT STORAGE (NEW CONCERN)
 • MAINTENANCE FACILITIES

THREE FORKS OVERLOOK
 • NEW INTERPRETIVE CONTACT FACILITY (STAFFED)
 • ORIENTATION
 • INTERPRETATION (POWER)
 • VIDEO/EXHIBITS
 • OBSERVATION ROOM
 • OBSERVATION/PHOTOGRAPHY DECK
 • PIT TOILETS
 • NEW PRIMITIVE CAMPGROUND AND PRIMITIVE SHELTER
 • REVEGETATE IMPACTED AREAS
 • FULL AND HALF DAY TRIPS
 • NEW GRAVEL SPUR ROAD AND TRAIL

BROOKS RIVER AREA
VALLEY ROAD
 • UPGRADE TO TWO LANES

RESEARCH BAY OVERLOOK
 • INTERPRETIVE PULLOUT
 • WAYSIDE EXHIBIT

THREE FORKS OVERLOOK
 • SEE INSET MAP AT LEFT



ALTERNATIVE 3
VICINITY
BROOKS RIVER AREA
 KATMAI NATIONAL PARK AND PRESERVE
 UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR / NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
 DSC / APRIL 91 / 127 / 40055

ALTERNATIVE 4

ALTERNATIVE 4

MAJOR OBJECTIVES

1. Decrease visitor use by eliminating lodging and food service from the Brooks River area.
2. Brooks River proper becomes a day-use-only area, which provides predictable visitor use patterns for habituated bears.
3. King Salmon visitor center becomes the orientation and interpretation staging area for Katmai NP&P with a Brooks River focus.
4. National Park Service oversees the valley tour.

VISITOR EXPERIENCE AND INTERPRETATION

King Salmon

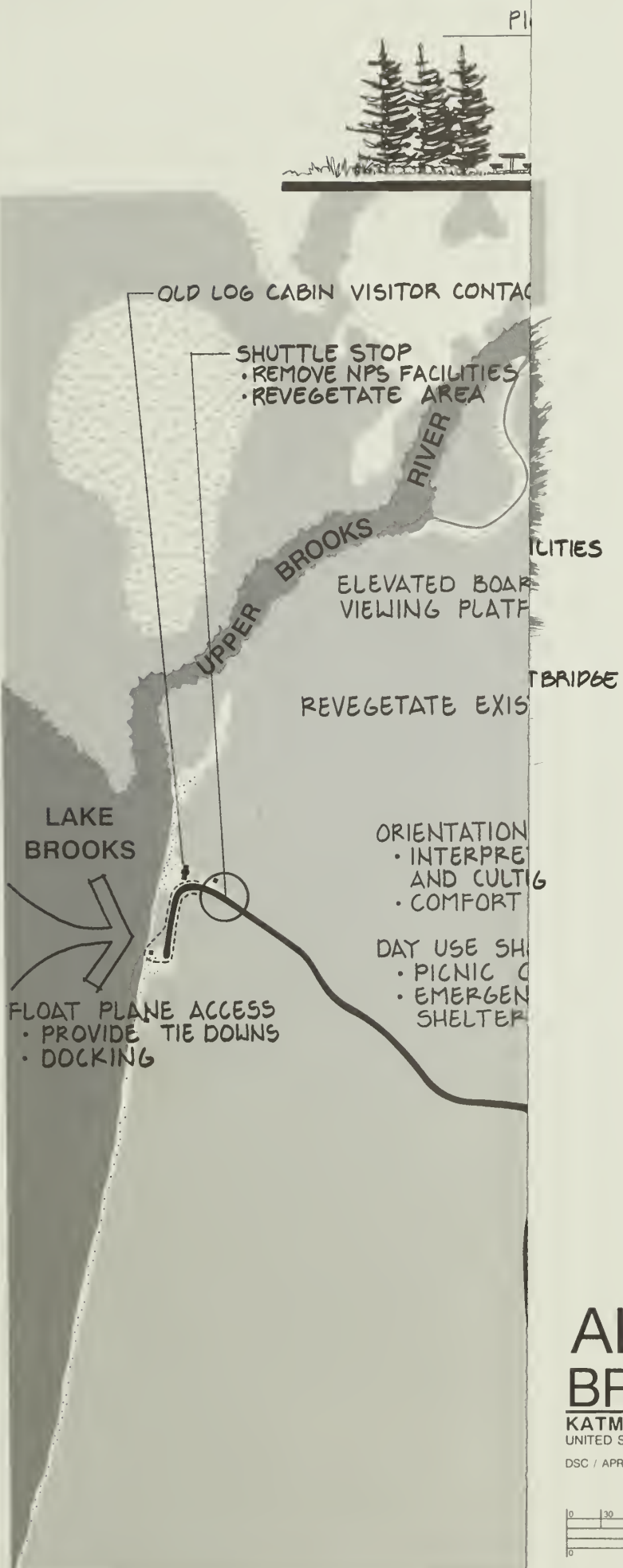
A new visitor center complex would be constructed in King Salmon. The new visitor center would assist visitors in planning their stay while at Katmai National Park. The visitor center would serve as the staging area for trips to various locations throughout the park. All major tour operations and transportation systems for any park experience would originate from this King Salmon Visitor Center Complex. The new visitor center interpretive program would provide an in-depth presentation of the Katmai story. While the Brooks River area would still receive the special attention it deserves, other locations and resource themes would be presented to give visitors an understanding and appreciation for the entire park story. A dramatic film presentation and exhibit area would provide the primary attraction for the new visitor center.

A new maintenance facility and artifact storage facility would be constructed.

Brooks River

All facilities, including the floating bridge, are proposed to be removed from the north side of the Brooks River. All visitor activities would occur on the south side of the Brooks River.

Under this alternative, the traditional Brooks Camp experience (small lodge setting within the prime resource) would no longer occur. The Brooks River area would be managed as a day-use-only area. Actions within this alternative will result in a decrease in visitation due to the elimination of lodging and developed area camping. It is estimated that 60 percent of potential lodgers (who will stay in King Salmon or commute from Anchorage), 30 percent of campers (who will stay in primitive sites, or commute in from other camping areas), and 100 percent of day users will visit Brooks Camp. It is anticipated that visitor use will decrease by 30 percent to an average of 7,105 visitor use days, or an average of 71 persons a day. Increases in day use due to marketing and expansion efforts on the part of common carriers can be accommodated under this alternative. This maximum use range of 70 to 100 people per day would help ensure both a quality visitor experience as well as allow for increased resource protection. This alternative



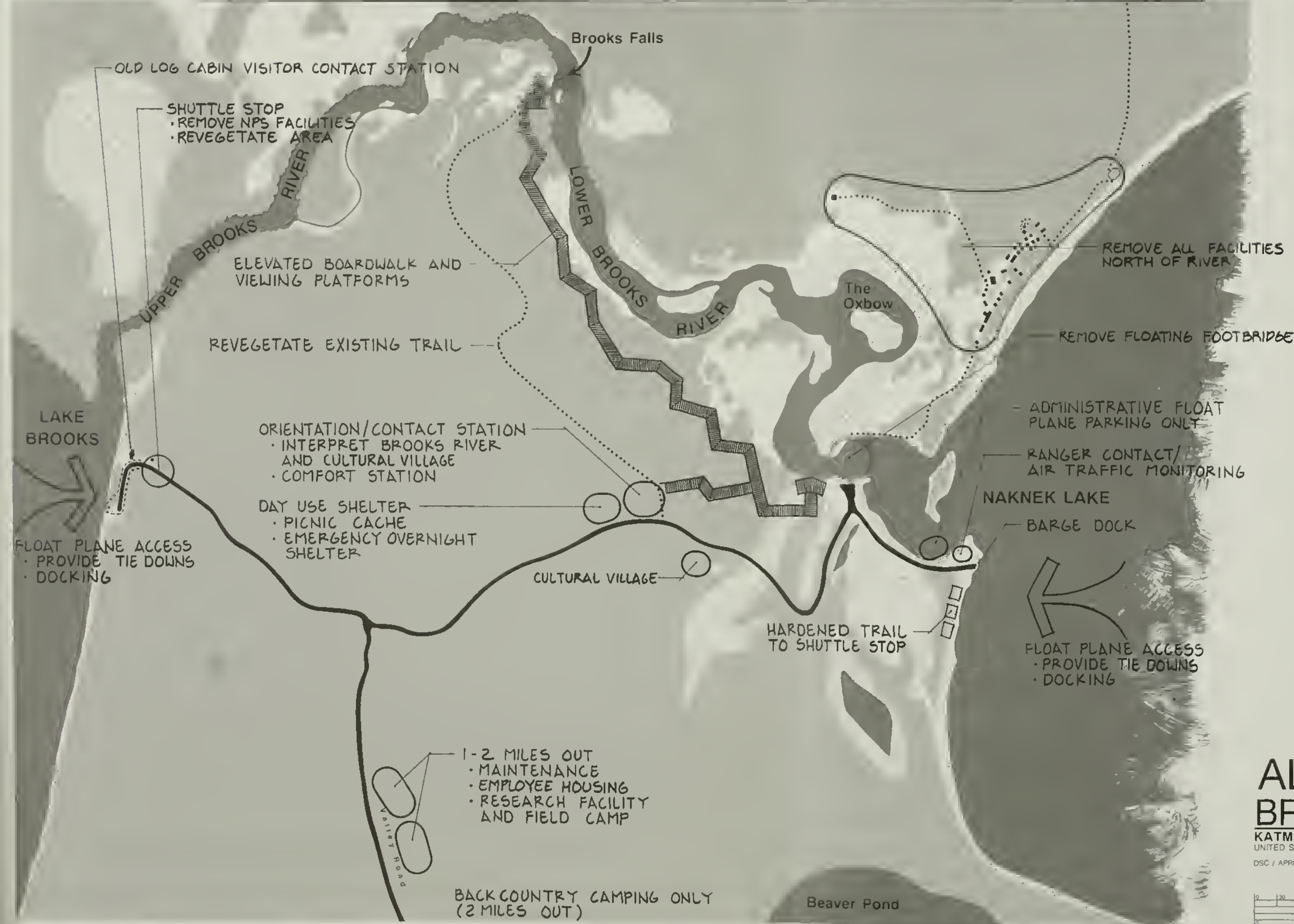
ALTERNATIVE 4 BROOKS RIVER AREA

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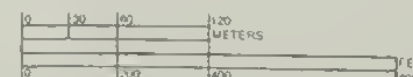




ALTERNATIVE 4 BROOKS RIVER AREA

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would require about 15 to 20 NPS staff to operate the valley tours and shuttles, and staff the visitor contact station, boardwalk, and roving patrols. Visitors other than backcountry campers would no longer have an overnight experience in a wilderness type setting. Day use visitors would have the type of overnight experience usually associated with small resort towns (King Salmon). The new visitor center in King Salmon would become a hub of activity for trip planning, trip staging, and media events. A day trip to Brooks River that would include both bear viewing and a trip to the Valley of Ten Thousand Smokes. The feeling that you are eye to eye with the bears would rarely occur since most visitors would be on boardwalks above the bears. The expanded interpretive program would give visitors a better understanding of the significance and resources that comprise all of Katmai NP&P.

The majority of visitors would continue to arrive by floatplane. Primary floatplane access will continue on Naknek Lake, but docking will be restricted to the area just south of the existing barge dock with the addition of formal tie down and docking facilities. NPS floatplane parking will continue to take place in the mouth of the Brooks River and will be augmented with formalized tie downs and docking facilities. Occasionally, weather conditions would require floatplanes to land on Brooks Lake. Secondary floatplane access will continue to be from the Brooks Lake side and this area will receive formalized tie downs and docking facilities as well.

The Naknek Lake shore facilities will include a ranger contact and shuttle dispatch station, and a surface boardwalk along the shoreline. This boardwalk will lead visitors to the park road which shall be extended out to the existing barge dock. This will be the location for the staging area for a shuttle system which will carry visitors to the new orientation facility located near the present Brooks Falls trailhead. Upon arrival, visitors from either the Brooks Lake or Naknek Lake landing area would be shuttled directly to the Brooks River orientation/contact station just south of the river. Visitors would be oriented to what they are about to experience and receive the *Bear Safety Message*.

From the contact station, visitors would immediately step onto an elevated boardwalk system that would take them along the south side of the river from its mouth to Brooks Falls. This elevated boardwalk would connect with two bear viewing platforms. These platforms will offer premium opportunities for bear viewing and photography while not being within sight of each other. The alignment of the boardwalk will make use of existing gaps in the forest vegetation to weave in, out, and through the forest while still providing views of the river. This routing will ensure that the walkway will not visually dominate the edge of the river and will avoid long, straight, monotonous stretches. An appropriate number of strategically placed panel exhibits would be used along the boardwalk and viewing platforms to highlight the significance of the river and the interrelationship between bears, fish, and people.

The Brooks River orientation/contact station would also provide ground level access to a new Cultural Interpretive Village. Visitors would walk only a short distance to discover four thousand years of human history associated with the Brooks River area. A cultural interpretive village would be developed in the general area of the existing Eskimo pit houses. A range of interpretive techniques (including the interpretation of existing pit house depressions through various stages of pit house reconstructions) would be used to create a village atmosphere and raise the cultural story to prominent status. A picnic shelter will be located near the orientation facility to allow these day users to safely store any food supplies which they may bring to the area. The picnic shelter would double as an emergency overnight shelter for times when weather may prohibit floatplane operations.

Maintenance and all employee housing will be relocated to a spot along the Valley Road, possibly occupying a previously disturbed site such as a borrow pit. Near this proposed maintenance and housing complex will be a new research facility. This will provide both workspace and quarters for any scientists conducting research in the Brooks Camp area.

Backcountry camping would not be permitted within a two mile radius of the Brooks River.

The Valley of Ten Thousand Smokes

The Brooks River orientation/contact station would also provide the staging area for tours to the Valley of Ten Thousand Smokes. Interpretation for the concession bus tour would be upgraded. Both a driver and a qualified interpreter would be provided on each bus tour. The Valley Road to the Three Forks Overlook will be upgraded (still gravel) and widened to provide room for two traffic lanes. This will be necessary due to the increased volume of traffic resulting from the addition of half day trips to the valley. Visitors would have the opportunity to choose either full day or half day tours. The half day valley tours would allow visitors ample time to see the valley and view bears in one day. One interpretive overlook shuttle stop would allow visitors to view Research Bay where the early exploration of the valley began. A second shuttle stop would provide visitors a chance to use restroom facilities and stretch their legs (see Alternative 1, Rest Stop Alternatives map).

A new interpretive facility would replace the existing Three Forks Overlook cabin. Unlike the existing cabin with its makeshift interpretive presentation, this new facility (unstaffed/no electricity) would be designed to present a more thorough and concise presentation of the significance of this volcanic event. This new interpretive facility would also provide comfortable seating and reading materials (in-depth subject matter related to Katmai) for those on tour who might decide not to take the strenuous hike to the valley floor. The front of this new structure would be designed to serve as an outdoor observation deck (ground level) which would allow visitors an opportunity to sit and relax while enjoying the scenery. Panel exhibits would be provided along the deck to assist visitors in identifying the panorama of landscape features visible from this point.

A new self-guide trail publication and an upgraded trail system would greatly improve the visitor experience to the valley floor. Visitors would be able to take the trail from the overlook down to the valley floor where they would meet the bus (new spur road segment) without having to make the strenuous return climb back to the new overlook. This road will access a new trailhead near the ash cliffs. The road's alignment will use the surrounding landforms to ensure its invisibility from the Three Forks Overlook. With the addition of this proposed road, the tour bus will be able to pick up tour participants not wishing to make the long uphill hike back to the overlook from the ash cliffs. Since the Brooks River area is day use only, in this alternative a real need arises to provide half day tours to the Valley of Ten Thousand Smokes. Visitors want to tour the valley, view bears, and perhaps fish for a while before flying out in the late afternoon. In order to accomplish this, time must be saved somewhere from the valley tour. The least desirable time segment now on the valley tour is the hike from the falls and ash cliffs back up to the Three Forks Overlook. Strangers really hold back the whole tour. The only way to save this time is to have the group at the falls hike out on a new trail that contours the slope until they meet the bus. Other time could be saved by shorter rest stops to and from the Valley of Ten Thousand Smokes. By saving time, the visitor experience is improved.



THREE FORKS OVERLOOK

- NEW INTERPRETIVE CONTAINER
- ORIENTATION.
- INTERPRETATION (NO PHOTOGRAPHY)
- OBSERVATION ROOM
- OBSERVATION / PHOTOGRAPHY LANE
- PIT TOILETS.
- NEW PRIMITIVE CAMP
- REVEGETATE IMPACTED BAY OVERLOOK
- HALF DAY TRIPS
- NEW GRAVEL SPUR ROAD EXHIBIT.



THREE FORKS OVERLOOK

- SEE INSET MAP AT LEFT.

ALTERNATIVE 4 VICINITY BROOKS RIVER AREA

KATMAI NATIONAL PARK AND PRESERVE
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR / NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

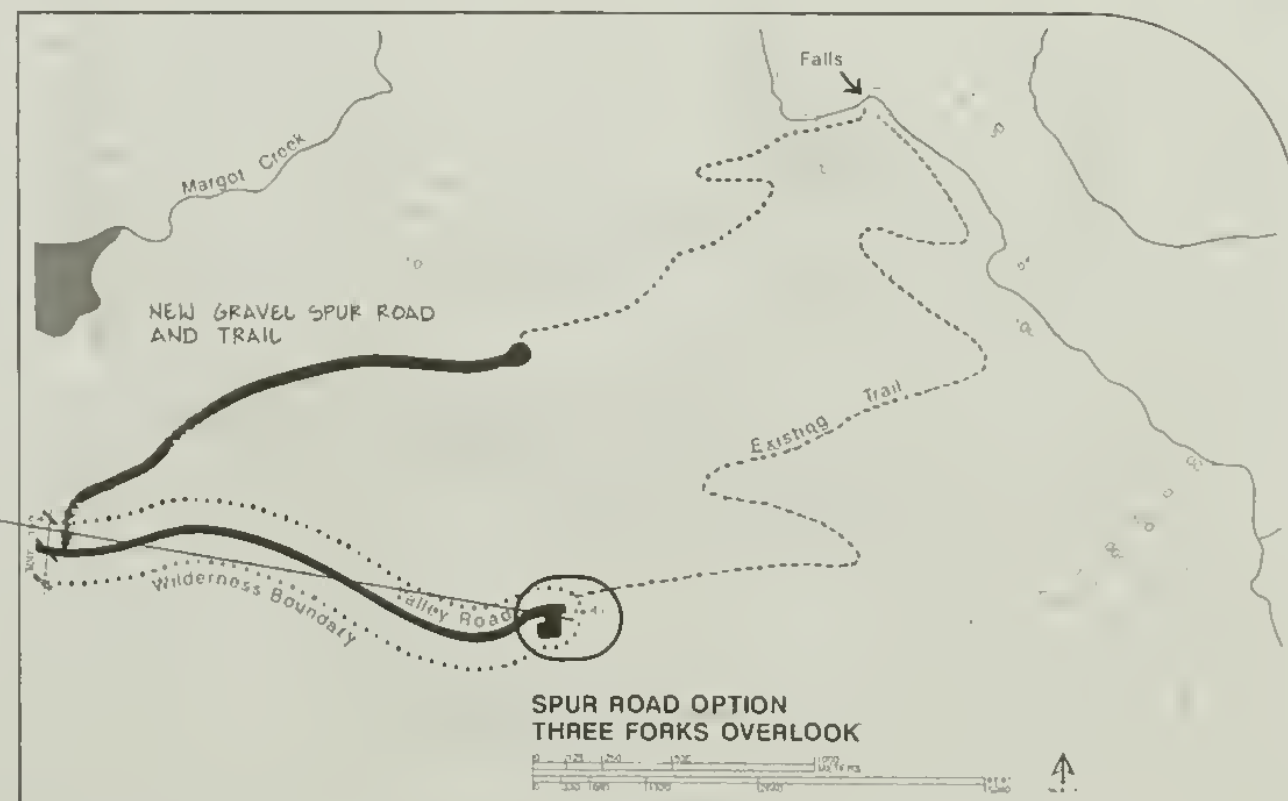
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- KING SALMON (1982 DCP)
- NEW VISITOR CENTER
 - ORIENTATION.
 - INTERPRETIVE FILM AND EXHIBITS.
 - STAGING AREA FOR ALL BROOKS RIVER AREA ACTIVITIES.
 - ARTIFACT STORAGE (NEW CONCERN).
 - MAINTENANCE FACILITY



THREE FORKS OVERLOOK

- NEW INTERPRETIVE CONTACT FACILITY (NON-STAFFED).
- ORIENTATION.
- INTERPRETATION (NO POWER).
- OBSERVATION ROOM
- OBSERVATION/PHOTOGRAPHY DECK.
- PIT TOILETS.
- NEW PRIMITIVE CAMPGROUND AND LEAN-TO.
- REVEGETATE IMPACTED AREAS.
- HALF DAY TRIPS
- NEW GRAVEL SPUR ROAD AND TRAIL



BROOKS RIVER AREA

VALLEY ROAD
• WIDEN TO TWO LANE GRAVEL ROAD.

RESEARCH BAY OVERLOOK
• INTERPRETIVE PULLOUT.
• WAYSIDE EXHIBIT.

THREE FORKS OVERLOOK
• SEE INSET MAP AT LEFT.



ALTERNATIVE 4 VICINITY BROOKS RIVER AREA

KATMAI NATIONAL PARK AND PRESERVE
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The proposed new gravel spur road below the Three Forks Overlook would be an intrusion into designated wilderness. The wilderness boundary is set 300 feet back from the edge of the existing road. This proposal for the spur road would require redesignation of the wilderness boundary by Congress before action could be taken. The spur road shown on the Vicinity map in Alternative 4 would have a 600-foot-wide corridor and would be about 1.25 miles long which equals approximately 91 acres. To offset this intrusion into the wilderness, this alternative proposes the addition of the approximately 640 acres vacated north of the Brooks River to designated wilderness.

Backcountry campers would not be allowed to use the new visitor contact center for storage or overnight camping. A new primitive campground with primitive toilets and lean-tos would be located in the vicinity, but out of view from the new visitor contact center.

BROOKS RIVER SPORTFISHING OPTIONS COMPATIBILITY WITH ALTERNATIVES

This matrix depicts the various sportfishing options that could be instituted under the various development alternatives. Public comment is encouraged, in view of the bear research findings presented in "Existing Conditions."

Sportfishing Option	*Development Alternative			
	1	2	3	4
Existing Regulations: Keep one fish per day, catch and release for Rainbow Trout, entire river. Requires fish cleaning station and utilities.	x			
Keep one fish per day below existing bridge site, catch and release only above existing bridge site. Requires fish cleaning station and utilities.		x		
Catch and release, entire river.		x	x	x
No fishing below falls. Catch and release above falls.			x	x
No fishing, entire river.		x	x	x

*BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DEVELOPMENT ALTERNATIVES

Alternative 1: Most of Brooks River area developments are kept in their present locations - limit visitation to the 1984-85 levels. Floating bridge stays and the bear viewing platform is enlarged. New platform near bridge.

Alternative 2: Keep some facilities at their present locations - limit visitation to the 1989-90 levels. Elevated bridge and boardwalk at existing floating bridge site, two bear viewing platforms, one at falls, one at cutbank.

Alternative 3: Maximize visitation by constructing new facilities at Iliuk Moraine which would replace those now at Brooks River area. Day use area only. Four bear viewing platforms connected by boardwalk on south side of river. No bridge, no facilities north of river.

Alternative 4: Decrease visitation by eliminating overnight use in Brooks River area. Day use area only. Two bear viewing platforms connected by boardwalk on south side of river. No bridge, no facilities north of river.



KATMAI NATIONAL PARK AND PRESERVE

BROOKS RIVER AREA

Please indicate your comments regarding the alternatives on this sheet. Attach other sheets if necessary. This form is self-addressed and requires no postage.

RESPONSE SHEET

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal blue or grey ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There is no handwriting or other markings on the paper.

Optional

Name _____

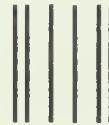
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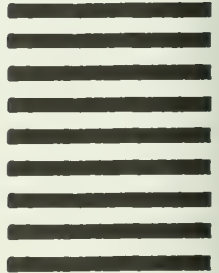


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Team Captain
Brooks River Area
Development Concept Plan
National Park Service/DSC/TWE
P.O. Box 25287
Denver, CO 80225-0287





As the nation's principal conservation agency, the Department of the Interior has responsibility for most of our nationally owned public lands and natural and cultural resources. This includes fostering wise use of our land and water resources, protecting our fish and wildlife, preserving the environmental and cultural values of our national parks and historical places, and providing for the enjoyment of life through outdoor recreation. The department assesses our energy and mineral resources and works to ensure that their development is in the best interests of all our people. The department also promotes the goals of the Take Pride in America campaign by encouraging stewardship and citizen responsibility for the public lands and promoting citizen participation in their care. The department also has a major responsibility for American Indian reservation communities and for people who live in island territories under U.S. administration.

Publication services were provided by the graphics staff of the Denver Service Center. NPS D-37
June 1991

